

BENGAL DISTRICT RECORDS, MIDNAPUR.

1763—1767.

EDITED BY
WALTER K. FIRMINER, B.D., F.R.G.S.,
ARCHDEACON OF CALCUTTA.
Editor of *BENGAL PAST & PRESENT*,

CALCUTTA:
THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT RECORD ROOM,
1911.

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INTRODUCTION.

In a report on the District Records of Bengal, Mr A. P. Muddiman wrote, in 1904 "the only districts which possess records prior to 1770 are those of Midnapore and Chittagong. At Midnapore there are six bound volumes of letters received for the years 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, and one volume of copies of letters sent from 1765 to 1770. These records are not only of considerable historical interest from their contents, but also possibly worth preserving from the fact that the original letters are often signed by the President and Council of the period to which they relate. There are also a good many autograph demi-official letters bound up in the volumes. They cover the period of the governorships of Henry Vansittart, J. Spenser, Lord Clive, Harry Verelst and John Cartier, from all of whom letters have been preserved. Perhaps however, the most important letters are those from and to the residents of Midnapore and the Collectors General which afford a unique view of the dawn of revenue administration in Bengal. In addition there is a very voluminous demi-official correspondence between the Resident at Midnapore, at first John Graham and afterwards George Vansittart, and the military officers who first subdued the hill jungle tract to the westward of Midnapore."

Of the condition of these old papers Mr Muddiman wrote "the original letters if kept any longer in their present form will crumble to dust almost at once. They are of various sizes and shapes and bound up with no particular care. Many are torn, and every time the volume is open they are bound to be damaged. Torn pieces of the letters are simply placed in the volume haphazard and are exceedingly liable to be lost."

In the year 1908 the Government of Bengal kindly permitted me to study these Old Midnapore Records. Of the six volumes of letters received the first (1764) was not at the time available. The other five volumes reached me tied together in a single bundle some projecting in set eaten boards being the only evidences of the binding into separate volumes. The paper had become far too friable to admit of being read beneath an electric fan. The Bengal Government gave me permission to separate the sheets, flatten them out, mend where necessary, and place each sheet so repaired in a separate cover of its own. Having done this I proceeded to make copies of the entire correspondence. The work was completed within a few months but in 1909 I left Calcutta for Shillong and in 1911 went home on furlough. In 1913 the Government of Bengal authorised the printing of the present volume. It was intended that this volume should include the Midnapore correspondence for the year 1768-1770 and also a full index but, the amount of material for the press having been underestimated it has been found necessary to hold these items to a further publication which will also include a few letters belonging to the period covered by the present volume but which have come to light since the bulk of the original letters came into the Editor's hands.

WALTER E. FIRMINER

ST JOHN'S HOUSE

CALCUTTA,

11th February 1914

CORRIGENDA.

Page 3 for 2nd line of foot note for "last" *read* "lost."

Page 7 for 3rd line of text from bottom for "Capt. Roberts'" *read*
"Capt. Stibberts."

Page 10 for 10th line of text from bottom for "No. 9" *read* "No. 13."

To letter No. 139 *add* signature "John Fergusson"

Letter 174 has been by error printed among those of 1767 : it belongs
to 1768.

No 3

General Regulations
for receiving and settling Claims
[Restitu]tion Fund

Copy. 1st. Every person
[re]stitution shall set forth his state
prove his right to our prote[ction]
indulgence

2ndly Any servants
restitution shall produce for
Masters of their good behaviour during the Troubles and the probability
of their having sustained the loss they may claim for

3rdly Every person shall set forth the place where his goods were
lost and also what means he has already used for recovering them And
notice is hereby given that any person going up the country with a view
of using his endeavours for this purpose will on application to the Governor,
be furnished with proper letters to the Nabob's officers to assist him therein

4thly. The Calcutta market price of all sorts of exports to markets
in the country, the Auring¹ price of imports to Calcutta, shall be esteemed
the prime cost, excepting where it (can) be proved that the goods were
actually, delivered, and afterwards lost In which
the price gave to be esteem[ed] prime cost

5thly The charges of merchandize shall be allowed in all estimates
and an advance of 10 [per] cent in lieu of interest

6thly Any non commissioned officer [or] soldier applying for restitu-
tion shall produce from the Adjutant or some other officer a certificate of the
probability of their having sustained such loss

7thly. The seapoys of the Patna Factory having behaved most noto-
riously ill in plundering the City after our Troops had got possession of it,
and been in a great measure the cause of all these fortunes of war, shall
not be entitled to any of the restitution

ORDERED that the Secretary do publish these Regulations throughout
the Town and transmit copies thereof to the Chiefs of the Subordinate
Factories and the Adjutant with the Army to for the
Government of these to lay in

A True Copy]

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT,² Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

Committee of Restitution

¹ Arang—a factory or warehouse for piece goods

² A Beaumont originally a free merchant but appointed a Factor in 1758 "because
of his honourable conduct and great losses in the late general calamity Court & Genl
Letter, March 3rd 1758 Served in the Calcutta Court of Cutcherry, Provisional Military
Storekeeper, 1763

No. 4.

Sir,

Pursuant _____

I transmit you by _____
concerning which you _____
directions. I am further to acquaint you that they have ordered a price
current to be formed in consequence of the 4th Regulation of which a
copy will be sent you for the farther government of those who may have
claims upon this fund

I am, etc.,

WM. MAJENDIE,

Secretary.

MIDNAPUR RECORDS.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|--------------|
| Hortall ^a 1st Sort | ... | ... | 20 | 0 | p. maund. |
| 2nd do. | ... | ... | 13 | 0 | do. |
| Hing ^b | ... | ... | 100 | 0 | do. |
| Hinggrah | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | do. |
| Iron, Europe | ... | ... | 9 | 8 | do. |
| Kis-mischa | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | do. |
| Lead | ... | ... | 9 | 8 | do. |
| Mace | ... | ... | 8 | 0 | p. seer. |
| Nutmeg | ... | ... | 4 | 0 | do. |
| Pepper | ... | ... | 40 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Pistachia nutt | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | p. seer. |
| Pistachia flower | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | do. |
| Quick Silver | ... | ... | 2 | 12 | do. |
| Rose Water | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | p. chest. |
| Red Lead | ... | ... | 6 | 8 | p. maund. |
| Raisen | ... | ... | 12 | 0 | do. |
| Ratten | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | p. bundle. |
| Sandle Wood | ... | ... | 12 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Senna Leaves | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | do. |
| | ... | ... | | | |
| Sugar Candy | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Steel ^c | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | do. |
| Japan Wood | ... | ... | 4 | 0 | do. |
| Salt Persia | ... | ... | 150 | 0 | p. ½ maunds. |
| Madras | ... | ... | 100 | 0 | do. |
| Sindia | ... | ... | 200 | 0 | do. |
| Ingeley | ... | ... | 150 | 0 | do. |
| Silver Thread | ... | ... | 3 | 0 | p. oz. |
| Tobacco | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Tinn | ... | ... | 24 | 0 | do. |
| Tootinague ^d | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | do. |
| Tea in Catty 1st Sort | ... | ... | 8 | 0 | p. catty. |
| 2nd do. | ... | ... | 4 | 0 | do. |
| 3rd do. | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | do. |
| Toze | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Vermillion | ... | ... | 4 | 0 | p. seer. |
| Versigraze | ... | ... | 2 | 8 | do. |
| White Lead | ... | ... | 8 | 0 | p. maund. |
| Wat Pegao | ... | ... | 32 | 0 | do. |

A True Copy.

Published by Order of the Committee, Fort William.

The 24 March, 1761.

W. MAJENDIE,

Secretary.

^a Hortall—Yellow Arum. ^b And. (G.)—A species of gromwell.

^c True Copy of Good Old Days of Honorable John Company Vol. II, p. 445, (Comptrol's Register.)

^d Pancher

No. 6

To Mr ANSFLM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM*The 11th February 1764*

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 31st ultimo and 1st instant, with the treasure and piece goods.

We had, upon report of the Warehouse-keeper that the damaged cloths which you had rewashed, are not in a proper condition to be sent home. We desire, however that you will have the remainder rewashed in the best manner possible, and return them to us when we shall order them to be sold here to the best advantage.

We are, Sir, etc.

HENRY VAN NITTART
WM BILLERS
WARREN HASTINGS
RAND MAPRIOTT
HUGH WATTS
RALPH LEYCESTER

No 7

To Mr ANSFLM BEAUMONT Resident at Midnapore.

SECRET DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM*The 1st March 1764*

Sir,

Having lately received advice of a very extraordinary meeting which happened in the Army in Behar about payment of the donation printed

1 Col Champion in his Diary (India Office Misc No 198) records June 22 1764 'I went to Patna and spent the day with Mr Kullerton and in the evening I went with the Col to pay my respect to all the ladies. At one noon word was brought that Mr Billers had wounded himself in the side and that immediate assistance was wanted. Very soon a confirmation came that he had murdered himself on his sword, after he had made 13 wounds 3 of which was very deep the last stab the sword broke with a him and went through the heart. The cause of this melancholy accident is not known. It is most surprising that he seemed to be cheerful all the morning. He called for dinner and it was puting on the table. He went into his room and without shutting the door or taking the least precautions to being prevented he committed this horrible act of violence. A funeral party was orderd of a Captain of rank and file and 15 half musket guns. There is not one gentleman of the factory that does not seem pleased at his untimely end, for the [y] complain heavily of his oppression to the country people and bad treatment of them. Not one of them have been on speaking terms with him for this month past. He has been solely guided by one Mr Hutchison which has been the cause entirely of this misunderstanding amongst them. Time may possibly show the cause. He had sent to the Military and Civil gentlemen a public invitation to celebrate the anniversary of Plassey Day. This tragedy is recorded in the *Sir Mutaqlerin* Vol III, P 7 (Cambray & Lda)

to them by the Nabob and that the Commanding Officer has been obliged to discharge the first dividend of their shares in order to quiet and pacify them, we think it necessary that payment should also be made of the first dividend to all the troops stationed at the subordinate Factories to prevent the danger of their applying first in the same mutinous manner. We have accordingly consulted the Agents, who acquainted us that the share allotted by the Committee of Officers for sepoy, lascars and artificers amount in the whole to at Rs 4,00,000 of which 7/25ths has been received and is ready to be divided. Calculating the whole number of shares to be 10,000, each share will come to at Rs 40, and, as the accident of Major Knox's death prevented the proportions for the officers and private men being regularly settled we have agreed that the whole should be rated after the following manner —

| | Shares | @ | Rs |
|----------------|--------|---|-----|
| Commandants' | 10 | | 400 |
| Subdars | 8 | | 320 |
| Jamidars' | 4 | | 160 |
| Havildars' ... | 2 | | 80 |
| Naibs | 1½ | | 60 |
| Seapoys | 1 | | 40 |

7/25ths of which, being the present dividend amounts as follows —

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|
| To each Commandant | ... | 110 |
| „ Subdar | | 88 |
| „ Jamidar | | 44 |
| „ Havildar | | 22 |
| „ Naib | ... | 16½ |
| „ Seapoy | | 11 |

We desire, therefore, that on receipt hereof, you will pay to all each seapoys as were in the service at the declaration of the late war against Cassim Aly Cawn the shares that are due to them, according to the above regulation transmitting us exact rolls of the payments so made that we may account with their agents, and taking care that it is fully explained to the seapoys what is their whole share and what their present dividend assuring them that the rest shall be duly paid as the kists come in from the Nabob

The first dividend having also been paid to the Europeans at Camp, such as are stationed at your Factory, are to receive the following rates, being 7/25ths of their respective shares —

| | | @ | Rs | As | P |
|---------------|---------|-------|----|----|---|
| A private man | 1 share | | 37 | 15 | 1 |
| A corporal | ... | 1½ do | | | |
| A sergeant | .. | 2 do | | | |

We are, Sir etc,
 HENRY VAN SITTART
 WM BILLERS
 WARREN HASTINGS
 RAND MARRIOTT
 SAML MIDDLETON
 RALPH LEYCESTER

No. 8.

To Mr. ANSELM BRAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore,

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM:
12th March 1761

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 4th and 7th instant accompanying the treasure and piece goods with their invoices and receipts

A List of Investment for the ensuing year made up agreeable to the Company's orders received per Snow¹ *Lapwing* was some time ago transmitted to Mr Burdett, and we have at present no further instructions to give regarding the provision. you may proceed to make the purchases therein without delay

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
HENRY VAN SITTART
WM BILLERS
WARREN HASTINGS
SAML MIDDLETON

No 9

To MR ANSELM BRAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

SECRET DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM
The 12th March 1761

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 9th instant enclosing the rolls of the seapoys to whom you have ordered payment of the first dividend of prize money

We observe in the abstract of the whole a charge made for a Commandant which we do not conceive can be admitted as the Commandant of Capt Roberts' battalion is with the Army in _____ you must, therefore, receive such from Lieut Roper the sum charged under that rank

¹ 'Snow,' says an old shipping dictionary, 'only differs from a brig in having the boom mainsail hooped to a tryseil mast—a spar which is unknown in a brig but which is carried in a Snow close to the main mast' The word is derived from the Dutch 'Sneeuw' Lee *Commodore Sir John Hayes* p 12

The four men belonging to the troop of Black Cavalry will be drawn for in their proper rank by their Jimaldar at Camp, and must accordingly apply to him for their shares.

We are, Sir, ✓

Your most obedient servants,

HENRY VAN SITTART.

WM. BILLERS

WARREN HASTINGS

RAND MARRIOTT.

SAML MIDDLETON.¹

No. 10.

List of goods to be provided at Midnapore for the year 1763, compared with the List received p. Lapcing Snow.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Charconnaes ² C F R. | Five hundred | .. | ... | 500 |
| Chucklae ³ C H K. | One thousand | ... | ... | 1,000 |
| Ginghams G N. | None | .. | ... | ... |
| Nillies ⁴ ordinary N. | Two thousand | .. | ... | 2,000 |
| Do fine | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Do superfine, S F. N | Two thousand | .. | ... | 2,000 |

To be sold agreeable to the Patterns herewith sent for one hundred.

PIECES

| | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|-----|-------|
| Peniascoes ⁵ P E N | Sorted with dark cloth colours, but few red, masquerade | One thousand | ... | 1,000 |
| Sanno ⁶ Ballasore, ordinary S A N S. | Five hundred | ... | ... | 500 |
| do of middling price M S A N S. | Five hundred | ... | ... | 500 |
| do fine and thick S A N S F | Five hundred | ... | ... | 500 |

We refer to our directions on the article of Wafties in regard to the length you must pack One hundred bale of the last three sort

Sanno⁶ Superfine S A N S, S F. None

¹ Middleton, Samuel. Arrived 25th July, 1753, aged 23 In 1756 made his escape from Jagdea to Fulta, 1757 In Accountant's Office at Calcutta 1759 with Verelst at Luckypore He was one of the Deputation who enthroned the Nawab Nazim-ul Dowlah and got into trouble for receiving a present See Verelst *View of the English Government in Bengal*, pp 51 and Appendix, pp 37, 44 He bent his head to the storm and Clive and the Council pleaded for special favour on his behalf. In July 1765 he applied for the Chiefship at Patna, and was supported by the opposition party to Lord Clive on the Board He appears at Chief of that Factory in a list of 8th October 1765 (*Long Selections*, p 412) Member of the Select Committee, 1770 Chief of Council of Revenue at Murshidabad Resident at the Durbar, Collector of Rajsbar and Chief of Cosimbazar, 1772 Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, 1767 1775 The Freemasons subscribed for 4,000 to 5,000 for his portrait by Tilly Kettle Died and buried at Pooty (Pirpanti), 1775 See *Bengal Past and Present*, Vol III, p 393, Vol IV, p 635

² Charkhana—chequered muslin

³ Chakla—mixed silk and cotton

⁴ Nilá—blue cloth

⁵ Peniasco—(According to Birdwood) made of pine apple fibre

⁶ Sinu—cotton cloth

No congee must be put to any of the Saanoes

Sarsuchers¹ Sur So Such as p Lad Annon last year.

Two hundred ... 200

Sarsuchers F Sur So Forty Cavid long Two hundred 200

Shalbasts² lively colours S & B. Six hundred ... 600

If you have any other species of goods not mentioned here you may send us two or three pieces of them for a sample. You must take care in all coloured goods that the colours be light and lively

Let the Gurrah,³ Wrappers be _____ contained in each bale or chests, and not _____ of pieces contained in two or more bales or chests in the total except they are of equal quantity in each package

You must endeavour to avoid sending so many different pieces in one bale

Gurrahs and other calicoes for printing, hammams⁴ excepted, are in good demand for want of long cloths. We, therefore, recommend it to your particular attention for a supply of these articles over beyond what we have ordered till you hear from the _____ [Choramandel⁵] Of that we can be supplied with a large quantity of long cloths, by which information you are to govern your elves

Should you happen to have more ships to send home than this investment with freight, we recommend to you an increase of those articles marked I for _____ tion to the quantity supplied

You must send such parts of this investment as are necessary to the subordinate stations

We have not received this year any reasons for the increase and decrease of the several articles directed in the former investment from any of the factories which however we hope to receive per *Godolphin* not yet arrived, as you must by no means omit to send them annually

[On same sheet]

12th March 1764

To A BEAUMONT Esq

DEAR SIR

As it is possible Mr Barlett may have omitted to leave with you the list of investment referred to in this day's General Letter, I thought it best to enclose the present duplicate to prevent your being at a loss in understanding the Boards' Orders

I am etc,
J GRAHAM

¹ Turbans

² Shalbasts—shawls

³ Garbi—unbleached fabric used for packing

⁴ Hammam (a Turkish bath) a thick cloth used as a wrapper in the cold season

No 11.

FORT WILLIAM
14th March 1764

[The Covering Letter is missing]

Each Battalion to consist of ten companies, two whereof to be Grenadiers Each Company

- 1 Subadar.
- 2 Jimaldars of whom one to be Colourman
- 3 Naks
- 1 Drummer
- 60 Serpoys

And an Adjutant with the rank of Jimaldar but to be a supernumerary and station'd to no Company

To the Battalion . . . { 5 Sircars
5 Watermen
1 Writer
1 Linguist
1 Head and two inferior Armourers

That to each Battalion there be three European Officers and five Sergeants one whereof to be Sergeant Major

HENRY VAN SITTART

The Doctors are struck out, because it is proposel to keep a European Surgeon s mate to each Battalion but I believe it will be always necessary to have one or two Black Doctors as some castes of the serpoys will not take medicines from a European

No 12.

TO MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

COMMITTEE OF RESTITUTION
FORT WILLIAM
The 16th March 1764

SIR

Pursuant to the orders of the Committee, I transmit you the accompanying copy of their Proceedings of this day to be made publish at your Factory.

I am, etc,
W MAJFNDIE

Copy. Proceedings of the Committee of Restitution held on the 16th March 1764

Read again the letter delivered in at our last meeting by Mr Johnstone¹ and eight other Merchants on the subject of the Regulations at first established for the government of those who have claims to deliver in

Taking the same into consideration, we are unanimously of opinion that those gentlemen extend their pretensions further than the nature of the

¹ John Johnstone a son of Sir James Johnstone See *Bengal Past and Present* Vol III pp 390 3 He was the first British Resident at Midnapur, and stood a siege there by the Marathas Long Selections No 560

case will admit. In the public calamities of war, merchants will unavoidably be sufferers, and it is very seldom that governments can, or do procure any satisfaction and reparation for such losses nor can any right be set up to such reparation. In the present case, the Nabob in whose favor we declared has engaged to make good the losses of the merchants living under the Company's protection, so far as the account shall be passed and approved by the Governor and Council. When we proposed to the Nabob that such a stipulation should be made we had no thoughts of requiring more than the restitution of the principal and interest, by no means intending to charge him the Nabob, with the expected profits, which in some cases will amount to 100 per cent or more. The arguments alleged by the merchants in their address for adding the expected profits to the principal did not escape the consideration of the Committee, but they were not thought to carry sufficient reason for increasing the charge upon the Nabob, for whom we would determine since he has made us the judges, in the same reasonable manner as if the restitution were to be paid by our own Government. The members of the Committee are perhaps the most considerable sufferers themselves; but they, and all the rest of the merchants may be thankful after such calamities to receive back the principal and interest of their losses.

The Regulations being here again read

AGREED that the first second third, fifth, sixth and seventh do stand confirmed, the fourth being liable to the objection mentioned by the merchants respecting salt, it is hereby declared to be our meaning that salt shall be reckoned an import to Calcutta and charged like other Aurung goods at the prime cost

AGREED that in consideration of risque an additional sum of 15 per cent be allowed on all claims for goods exported from Calcutta to Patna, and their lost and so in proportion for exports lost at all other places, to be ascertained by the Committee as the accounts are delivered in

ORDERED that the Secretary do transmit to the Merchants in answer to their letters a copy of these Proceedings, and that he do further publish them throughout the town and forward other copies to the Chiefs of the Subordinates desiring they will also make them publish

A True Copy

W MAJENDIE,
Secretary

No 9

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
The 26th March 1764

SIR

We have received your letter of the 21st instant

The Members of the Committee of Accounts having laid before us from their last meeting some remarks in regard to the method which should be observed in stating the military accounts at the Subordinates, we now

enclose you a copy thereof, and desire that the alterations therein¹ pointed out may be punctually observed in future as far as they relate to your Factory

We are, Sir,
Your most humble Servants,

HENRY VAN SITTART
W. BILLERS
RAND MARRIOTT
SAML MIDDLETON
RALPH LEYCESTER¹
JOHN BURDETT²

[ENCLOSURE]

Extracts from the Proceedings of a Committee of Accounts held on the 19th March 1761

This leads us to remark the common method of stating Military Accounts at the Subordinates as they seem in many respects to be at present irregular and confused, we beg leave to recommend the following alterations

In the first place that no military disbursements should ever be entered in the cash or bakhsh³ accounts of any subordinates

That the Pay Master of a Detachment at any Factory on receiving advances from the Chief and Council should regularly give them drafts on the Commissary General in favor of the Board that the time thus advised of the state of these advances will be able to call on each Pay Master for a regular adjustment of their accounts, as they will be advised to transmit them at the end of each month, with a regular abstract of the off-reckonings, so that the whole of the military expense may be regularly pass thro' the Commissary's hands and by him laid before the Committee

That on any change of Pay Masters the Commissary be advised, and that the former Pay Master in a regular manner make over his balances to his successor, which will prevent much perplexity in the accounts that has occurred from a neglect and very frequent changes of the gentlemen who settle their accounts

A True Extract

FORT WILLIAM,
26th March 1764

J GRAHAM,
Secretary

¹ Ralph Leycester Arrived 7th June 1754 Assistant in the Import Warehouse in 1756. Escaped to the ships at the siege of Calcutta Went home 1759 Charged by Lord Clive with cowardice in abandoning Dacca to the enemy in 1763 In 1766 one of the Company's servants who quarrelled with Lord Clive and resigned

³ Bakhsh In Anglo Indian sense—a paymaster

No 14

To MR ANSELM BEALMONT, Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM

The 26th March 1764

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 21st instant advising of the particular case of Commandant _____, and we consent therefore that he do receive prize money in that capacity, and he may continue Commandant to the Battalion which is now completing for the service of the Midnapore Province

The Black Horse we do not think are entitled to any part of the Prize Money, and as we conceive them to of little or no use to the Service, we desire you will give them their discharge

We believe the most of the Seapoys arrived with you from Burdwan are new men who have been entertained since the commencement of the war. However such as appear to have been in the service before the 7th July are to be allowed their share

The Commissary General represents to us that the accounts of the Seapoy off reckonings for the months of September October, November and December 1763 are wanting to complete his accounts. We desire therefore, you order them to _____ to him immediately

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants

HENRY VAN SITTART

H BILLERS

RANDL MARRIOTT

SAML MIDDLETON

JOHN BURDETT

No 15

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

FORT WILLIAM

The 14th June 1764

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 7th instant, and we approve of your providing the sannoes at Balasore. You will please, therefore to

send the musters to Mr Marriott with money and orders to make that part of the Investment

We are, Sir,
Your most humble Servants,
HENRY VAN SITTART
J SPENCER
WARREN HASTINGS
RANDL MARRIOTT
H WATTS¹
SAML MIDDLETON
RALPH LEYCESTER
JOHN BURDFTT

No 16

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore
FORT WILLIAM
25th June 1764

SIR

In further explanation of the Company's orders in regard to the method of conducting the correspondence with the Country Government, and with a view to render their intentions in this point more effectual, we have thought proper to establish it as a standing rule to be observed at the Subordinate Factories, that no servant of the Company, Civil or Military, or any person whatever residing under their protection shall be permitted to *correspond with the officers of the Government*, or to pay them visits in person, without leave granted to them by the Chief of the Factory, who is alone to manage all transactions with the Government according to our former orders

We are, Sir etc.,
HENRY VAN SITTART
J SPENCER
WARREN HASTINGS
RANDL MARRIOTT
SAML MIDDLETON
RALPH LEYCESTER

No 17

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore
SECRET DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM
The 28th June 1764

SIR

As we have determined to consider the troops stationed in the Midnapore Province in the same light with those stationed at the other Subordinate

¹ Hugh Watts A son of William Watts famous for the negotiations with Mir Jaffar prior to Plassey Hugh was a writer at Cessimbazar when that factory was captured

Factories, we direct on all occasions when they are ordered into quarters that no batta be allowed either to the officers or men

We are, Sir,
Your most humble servants,
HENRY VAN SITTART.
J SPENCER.
H. WATTS
SAML MIDDLETON.
RALPH. LEYCESTER.

No. 18.

COMMITTEE OF RESTITUTION
FORT WILLIAM
The 29th June 1764

COPY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the time for receiving claims for losses sustained during the late Trouble is further prolonged to the end of the ensuing month, and that none will be afterwards admitted, but for such losses as shall have been before noted to the Committee, and referred by their order to a further enquiry

By order of the Committee,
W MAJENDIE,
Secretary

No 18

TO MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM:
The 9th July 1764

SIR,

Having concerted a plan for embodying the Lascars employed in the Company's Service on this Establishment, which we intend shall be carried into execution, we now transmit you a copy thereof, and desire that you will accordingly enroll all that are serving under your Factory, and begin the stoppage from the end of this month

You will be careful in transmitting the rolls and accounts regularly to the Commissary General and we desire that you will send us a roll as

in 1756 In August 1757 appointed member of Council at Cassimbazar with Hastings, supported Vansittart against the majority on the Council, February 1763, 1763, Agent at Bangalore. Collector of Calcutta, February 1766 to February 1767 His dismissal ordered by the Company See Long's *Selections*, p 474 On the Burial Register, on January 19, 1767, occurs "Hugh son of Hugh Watts of Council"

soon as they are formed, that we may be acquainted with the number you now have in pay

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,
HENRY VAN SITTART
J SPENCER
WARREN HASTINGS
H WATTS
SAML MIDDLETON
R LEYCHTER
JOHN BURDETT

No 19

TO MR ANSELM BEAUMONT

FORT WILLIAM
1 the 18th July 1764

Sir,

We observe that in the accounts which you have lately sent of the collections in the Provinces under your care the charges of the investment and other disbursements not pertaining to the Revenues are so intermixed that it does not at once appear what is the real charge of the collections. We, therefore, direct that for the future you separate those articles from the accounts of the Revenue which you must send to the Committee, debiting the account for the several sums collected and crediting it for the sums submitted to Calcutta and those articles only which properly become a charge on the Revenues, writing off in your name as Resident all other sums for which you may have occasion for Charges Military and other disbursements which you will account for in those accounts which you send to the President and Council

As we have not yet received the accounts of the charity lands as directed in our instructions of the 16th November, 1763 we repeat our desire that you furnish us with these accounts as expeditiously as possible

We are Sir,
Your most humble Servants
J SPENCER
RANDL MARRIOTT
SAML MIDDLETON
WILLIAM BOLTS.¹

¹ Vide Dictionary of National Biography and Buckland Dictionary of Indian Biography

No. 20

To ANSELM BEAUMONT, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

21st July 1764

G O No 227

Sir,

- I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to transmit you the enclosed advertisement that the same may be published at your Factory

I am, etc ,

J GRAHAM,

Secretary

[ENCLOSURE]

The Honble the President of Council having RESOLVED that all Europeans, Portuguese, and Armenians employed as agents in the country by the Company's servants or other merchants living under the Company's protection shall be recalled, and leave the places of their respective residence in such time as to arrive in Calcutta by the 31st of December, NOTICE THEREOF IS HEREBY GIVEN, and the constituents of all such agents are therefore required to pay obedience thereto, submitting to their agents the proper information and orders

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council Fort William
the 21st day of July, 1764

J GRAHAM

Secretary.

No 21.

To Mr ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM

The 27th August, 1764

Sir,

We have received your letters of the 29th ultimo, 7th and 9th instant, and we have ordered the indent transmitted with the last to be complied with by return of the mootwas

Enclosed we transmit you the list of investment to be provided at your Factory for the current year received by the ships lately arrived, whom you will please to follow and observe so far as you may have it in your power from the provision yet to make of any of the articles, and comply in point of quantity as far as possible

The other directions annexed to the list we also desire may be carefully attended to

We are Sir,
Your most obedient Servants

J SPENCER
WARREN HASTINGS
SAML MIDDLETON
R LEYCESTER
JOHN BURDETT

— — —
No 22

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore
FORT WILLIAM
The 3rd September 1764

SIR,

By Order of the Board, I transmit you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Nabob to the President and acquaint you it is their desire that the several Dawk Chokies within your limits may be furnished with oil and the other usual necessities

I am etc,
J GRAHAM,
Secretary

ENCLOSURE

FROM THE NABOB

Dawks have from of old been stationed from Choonacolly to Jellasore to bring news from these parts At present, according to the ancient custom Bunmolly is appointed chief of the dawks and I accordingly wrote to you some time ago to desire that you give orders to the zemindars, fowzedars and other officers of Burdwan and Midnapore, etc to supply the said daks with necessities I have only to repeat the same request.

FORT WILLIAM, 30th September 1764
W MAJENDIE,
Assistant Secretary

— — —
No 23

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM
The 3rd September 1764

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 18th and 27th ultimo, the former accompanying the dispatch of Treasure and Bale Goods

We have appointed Mr Parker Hatley¹ Assistant at your Factory in the room of Mr. Steers² deceased and directed him accordingly to repair to his station

We are, Sirs

Your most obedient Servants

HENRY VAN SITTART

WAPPEN HASTINGS

SAHL MIDDLETON

R. LEYCESTER

JONAS BURDITT.

No 24.

To MR ANDREW BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

SECRET DEPARTMENT

FORT WILLIAM

The 3rd October 1764

SIR,

In consequence of representations from the Nabob and the Company's orders in their letters of this season, we have at present under consideration the subject of regulating the Inland Trade, with a view to putting it on such a footing as may prevent any further disputes with the Country Government

Among other articles it is thought necessary and has been resolved expressly to forbid all Company's Servants and others residing under the Company's protection from raising salt works (as collarees³ or toffals) for making salt upon the grounds in any part except in the territories appertaining to the Company, that all claims to such grounds shall be immediately relinquished, and application will be made to the Nabob on behalf of the claimants to order the Zemindars to discharge in money such balances of former years and advances of this season as may appear to be justly due upon examination of the accounts of the Molungees

So far, therefore, as this resolution may regard the members and dependents of your Factory we desire you will see it carried into execution observing the toffals must be delivered over without loss of time that the Zemindars may have no cause to complain of the loss of the season for carrying on their business

¹ Formerly a contractor to the Army

² St. John's Burial Register - 23rd August 1764 Mr Charles Steers

³ Khilki a salt pan or the place of salt manufacture

The orders from the Nabob to the Zemindars to receive over the toffails and adjust the accounts will be transmitted to them in a few days

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,

HENRY VAN SITTART
J SPENCER
C. S. PLAYDELL
WARREN HASTINGS
H WATTS
SAML MIDDLETON
R LEYCESTER
JOHN BURDETT

No 25

TO MR ANSELM BEAUMONT, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
25th October 1764

SIR

We have received your letters of the 11th instant respecting the Teskush for the ensuing year, we have referred to be considered of, and replied to, from the Committee of Lands and agreeably to your request in the latter, you have our permission to resign your Presidency and return to Calcutta, on Mr Watt's arrival at Midnapore whom we have appointed to succeed you as Resident

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,

J SPENCER
C S PLAYDELL¹
JOHN BURDETT
H WATTS
SAML MIDDLETON
R LEYCESTER

¹ Charles Playdell (The name sometimes appears as Pleydell) Charles Stafford Playdell had a long Indian career. He arrived in India on November 25th, 1744. He was second at the factory of Jagdea at the time of Suraj-ud-daula's descent on Calcutta, and with the other refugees from Jagdea reached Fulta in July 1756. Resident at Ballasore 1759. Land Custom Master 1759. He married on February 25th, 1759, Elizabeth, daughter of J. Z. Holwell. In 1761 the Court of Directors ordered Playdell to be dismissed together with others who had signed their names to Lord Clive's famous protest against the treatment of Bengal Servants by the Board. *Vide Basteed Echoes* p. 149. This order seems not to have been executed. According to Bolts *Considerations*, Playdell received on the accession of Nazim-n Daulah to the musnud of Morshedabad in 1763 a Refreshment of Rs. 116661. In 1765 he is again Export Ware housekeeper, at Calcutta. On January 25th, 1768, he applies for a passage home on the *Earl of Fing*,

No. 26.

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

SECRET DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
6th November 1764

SIR,

The Agents for the Nabob's Donation for the Army have paid into the Treasury the sum of Sicca Rupees 8,211-12-0 making current 9,520-10-0 account the _____ dividend due to the seapoys stationed at your Factory, and as we have given _____ Midnapore Province due credit for the _____. We desire it to be paid agree[able] to the Rolls which are in the possession of Lieutenant Roger

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,

HENRY VAN SITTART
J SPENCER
C S PLAYDELL
JOHN JOHNSTONE
SAML MIDDLETON
RALPH LEYCKSTER
JOHN BURDETT

[Docket Received November 8th Contents complied with by Mr Beaumont]

but apparently without success. From October 1764 to July 1765 he held the office of Collector of Calcutta. I have not as yet been able to discover when Playdell went home but Dr Basteed (*Ecloges*, p. 49) writes Playdell returned in September 1771 to collect what was due to him, and to try for employment in the gift of local Patronage. He came out with a second wife. He became Superintendent of Police but in 1776 he was dismissed from his office by the Francis faction, but soon after restored by mandate from home. (Basteed, p. 42) Writing to his wife on September 1772, Dr Tyso Saul Hancock writes "I will answer your queries relating to Mr Playdell (*sic*) I say he is either a fool or in desperate circumstances. If his abilities can support him who need to despair? Neither his abilities, nor abilities much greater than his, can support him on the footing he has come hither. Compassion for a man who was once by success entitled to the Chair, and who, like a fool, declared himself incapable, may possibly induce the great to assist him, or a lively, handsome young wife may promote his success, but what an infamous wretch must be he who can think of the latter without horror" (Basteed *Op Cit*, pp 130-1) He was Deputy District Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal in 1775, and was elected Provincial Grand Master on January 14th, 1776.

The inscription on his grave in the South Park Street Cemetery is as follows

Sacred to the Memory of
CHARLES STAFFORD PLAYDELL Esq
Member of the Board of Trade
Master in Chancery, and
Superintendent of Police in Calcutta,
Who departed this life on the 27th of May, 1779,
Sincerely and universally regretted
by Europeans and Natives

No 27

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

26th November 1764

[Received November 28th]

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 22nd instant

You will please to pay the [second?] dividend of donation to those men from Burdwan who received the first, and transmit to us the rolls that we may demand the amount of the agents. As to the Lascars who were sent from Calcutta we doubt of their right to a share, and we do therefore desire you will transmit to us a roll of them with their pretensions set against their names, that it may be examined and certified by the Commanding Officer of the Artillery.

We have ordered your indent for medicines to be complied with. It is inconvenient to us to _____ you any Arcot Rupees from hence you _____ therefore pay the military in any of [the] species in which the Revenues are collected

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants

HENRY VAN SITTART

J SPENCER

C S PLAYDELL

WARREN HASTINGS

JOHN JOHNSTONE

SAML. MIDDLETON

R LEYGESTER

No 28

To HUGH WATTS Esq Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

3rd December 1764

(Received 5th)

SIR,

We desire to be immediately informed what will be the amount of your investment this season and the produce thereof in number of bales also the dates that you think you will be able to make the despatches from Midnapore and what part will arrive in Calcutta in time for the ships of this season that is to say by the middle of February

Mr Van-eittart having embarked for Europe, the Government of this Presidency has devolved on Mr Spencer¹

We are, Sirs
Your most obedient Servants,

J SPENCER
C S PLAYDELL
WARREN HASTINGS
JOHN JOHNSTONE
SAML MIDDLETON
JOHN BURDETT
R LEYCESTER

No 29

To HUGH WATTS Esq, Resident at Midnapore

COMMITTEE OF LANDS
FORT WILLIAM
The 11th December 1764
[Received 13th]

SIR

We have received your letters dated the 11th and 22nd of November with regard to the remains of the ballance due from the Zemindar of the Midnapore Purgunna for the Asair year 1168 as the collection of it is made a handle of by the Zemindars for great exactions on the ryotts we think it better that the whole balance for 1168 should be given up and in advance made in the teshkees of that purgunnah for this year equivalent thereto or as far as you think it may admit of and as that purgunna (would seem) to have recovered itself greatly since the establishing of the Residency at Midnapore we hope it will easily bear it.

You have already had our directions to settle the teshkees of the present year therefore no present resolution for annulling the authority of the Zemindars appears necessary nor is it our intention while they pay up their teshkees. When you lay before us the increase that may be made on the teshkees of the several purgunnas we shall be able to judge how far it will be advantageous to continue the leases to the Zemindars agreeable to these teshkees for a fixed number of years and in this you will be assisted by the accompanying representation of the state of that Province delivered in by Mr Beaumont

Mr Johnstone's accounts which you write for shall be sent as soon as prepared

We are etc
J SPENCER
C S PLAYDELL
JOHN JOHNSTONE
RALPH LEYCESTER

¹ Afterwards Governor of Bombay

Copy of Mr Beaumont's Letter to the Council transmitted with the Above

TO THE HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQ.,

President and Governor, and Committee of Lands

FORT WILLIAM

December 11th, 1764

HON'BLE SIR AND MRS,

On delivering over charge of the Hon'ble Company's Factory at Midnapore to Mr. Hugh Watts I consulted with him the measures that were necessary to be taken in respect to the several purgunnahs in the district of Midnapore and Jallisore, and we made the following observations which are now laid before you for consideration

Midnapore Purgunnah

The rent for the Ozira year 1171 was fixed at Alle Siccaes 41,157-2 annaes and other appears to have been paid into the Company's treasury that year Alle Siccaes 46,172-14 annaes, Rs 5,015-12 0 of which was in part of a balance for the year 1168 We therefore, think that this purgunnah will not admit of any considerable increase, while that ballance remains unpaid We are, therefore, of opinion that if this ballance was given up, the rent might be augmented, and we are induced to recommend the giving up this balance, as it gives occasion to the Zemindar to oppress the tenants, and frequently to make unjust claims on that account

*Cossajurah Purgunnah*¹

Has paid its full rent for the year 1171 amounting to Alle Siccaes 107,200-15 14, and we judge this would admit of some little increase.

*Shatepore Purgunnah*²

Has paid its full rent for the year 1171 amounting to Alle Siccaes 32825, and we are of opinion that this Purgunnah would admit of an increase These two purgunnahs may be greatly esteemed among the best in this chuklah Invasions of the Marattas have rendered them very thin of inhabitants, so that a great part remaining uncultivated, we therefore would recommend every encouragement to be given to the Zemindar to induce him to invite his people into his country as the only means of cultivating his waste lands, and if properly attended to must in a few years be greatly improved, and will them admit of a considerable increase

*Cundahar Purgunnah*³

There is a considerable ballance due from this purgunnah which has proceeded from the extravagance and negligence of the Zemindars, but it is a very fine purgunnah, with care and attention it will soon recover. Mr Beaumont has therefore, taken the management out of the hands of the Zemindars, and has appointed Tossildars to collect the rents from the ryotts, which we judge to be the best method to be pursued for the present

1 Kashijora (Price)

2 Shapur (Price)

3 Khandar (Price)

*Omurey Purgunnah*¹

Has never been able to pay the teshkees. Therefore teshildars have been appointed in the same manner as at Caudahar, and we think they should be continued

*Tippey Parra-ohl*²

Has paid its full rent for the year 1171, being Alle Siccaes 8,513, and it is our opinion this purgunnah may be augmented

*Silbung Purgunnah*³

We think will admit of an increase

Kedahr Purgunnah

It has been with great difficulty that the Zemindar has been able to pay his rent for the year 1171. We, therefore, do not think this purgunnah will bear any increase

*Curruckpore Purgunnah*⁴

We are of opinion will not bear any increase.

*Myna Cairra Purgunnah*⁵

We are of opinion will admit of an increase

*Kuttubpore Purgunnah*⁶

Has paid its full teshkees but we think it will not admit of an augmentation without distressing the Zemindars and Ryots

*Dotmootah Purgunnah*⁷

As this purgunnah has always been in arrears a teshildar is appointed as at Caudahar *Beomootah Bulgerpore, Cuttahsore, Dhorindah, Gungnapore, Futteapore and Bulrampore*

The above seven purgunnahs we think may be increased

Purgunnahs —

Uttar Behar

Jalkapore

Tippey⁸ Jumnah

Pertalpan

Mathulpore

The above five purgunnahs will not we think bear any increase. On the contrary we apprehend it will be difficult to collect the full rents

Patna Jantts.

Has brought in the year 1171, Alle Siccaes, 7 240 the full teshkees

¹ Amarsi (Price)

² This I conclude to be Tuppa Narsjole, E. K. B. [Note of E. K. Barwell]

³ Sabang (Price)

⁴ Kharrakpor (Price)

⁵ Mayanchura (Price)

⁶ Kutubpur (Price)

⁷ Dantamutta (Price)

⁸ Tuppah Jamma

Bomjahn and Batta Tuekey Lands

Were granted to, a number of paks with the sirdarhs to be at the service of the Fowzdar of Midnapore Mr Burdett sent a to-sildar to the different purgunnahs to form a habitoody of them, and which was settled at Rs 12 000—exclusive of Rs 5531 paid into the Sair and Tannah Narrain Gur The Tallookdahr of the Bomjahn lands not being able to pay but a very small part of his teshkees, Mr Beaumont took them out of his hands and gave them to another Tallookdahr for Rs 4 900 (for the year 1172 so that we hope to receive from them lands about Rs 11,000) all which is a clear gain to the Company since this (hucklah) was first ceded to them and is accounted for under the heads of Tannah Narrain Gur and Serdey teshkees Notwithstanding this appears to be an advantageous method yet we are of opinion, when the lands are properly settled, they should be annexed to the respective purgunnahs where they are situated as it will be attended with very little expense to the Zemindars in collecting these rents whereas they being distributed in all the purgunnahs the present renters are obliged to keep servants in every purgunnah to collect the rents which must be attended with a very considerable expense, which would be mostly saved by being annexed to their respective purgunnahs Consequently these lands would soon admit of an encrease

Sair, Narrain Gur, etc

All the Sairs we had thoughts of putting up at outlay but we fear that many inconveniences might arise from it We think therefore it best to continue them as at present under the Zemindars, as we do not apprehend the encrease, if any, would be considerable

Glucklah Jalleore

We think requires the particular inspection of the chief We therefore, would recommend that Mr Watts should visit all the principal purgunnahs and adjust the teshkees on the spot

A BRAUMONT

No 30

To HUGH WATTS Esq, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

21st December 1761

Sir,

Enclosed are transmitted those accounts you wrote for, of Mr Johnstone

We are Sir

Your most obedient servants,

J SHERCEP

C S FLAYDELL

R LITCESTER

JOHN BURDETT

No 31.

To HUGH WATTS, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM

27th December, 1764

[Received January 1st]

SIR,

In consequence of advices which the President laid before us from yourself and the Resident at Ballasore of motions making by the Marrattas¹ we have thought proper to order a detachment under the command of Major Champion² to march into the Midnapore Province in order to oppose any attempts which they may make to enter it, for which purpose it must be stationed at Jellalore or such other part of the frontiers as may be most proper to check any views they may have to molest us.

We have ordered another party of fifty Europeans and three hundred serpoys which are to be added to Major Champion's party when they reach your Province, and when Major Champion arrives at Midnapore, we would have you add to the detachment lately sent from hence six Companies of the Midnapore Battalion. The other four we judge sufficient for the affairs of your revenues, and would not have the Detachment as it now stands appointed for Major Champion's command diminished unless the most urgent necessity shall require it.

It will be necessary that you should assist Major Champion with stores as far as your exigencies will admit, and 'tis likewise advisable that you consult with the Major on the measures proper to be taken to answer the purposes of this party.

Major Champion in this command is in general to be under your orders, but to be at full liberty in carrying out his military operations should he in consequence of the motions of the Marattas or orders from you be obliged to enter upon hostilities.

We are, etc,

J SPENCER

C S PLAYDELL

RALPH LEYCESTER

JOHN BURDETT.

No 32

To HUGH WATTS, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

FORT WILLIAM

The 21st January 1765

SIR

As we wish to give our last ship for Europe her dispatches as early as possible we are now to desire that you will use your utmost endeavours for

¹ Vide Imperial Record Department Persian Correspondence Nos. 2512-15

² Alexander Champion. Second in-Command to Sir Hector Munro, 1764, when opposed to Shuja ud daula in the battle of Buxar, October 23rd 1764. Champion succeeded

collecting in the remainder of your investment, so as to arrive with us at least by the 20th of the ensuing month

The Committee of Works having represented to us that they are much in want of bricklayers for the service of the new Fort, you will please engage as many as you possibly can, on the most reasonable terms, to repair for that purpose to Calcutta

The Sub-Accomptant has delivered in a letter to us representing the ease which will result in adjusting the General Books and the perspicuity which must appear from the accounts of your mercantile concerns and those of your revenues being kept in separate sets of books, the latter to be credited by the former for such part as is taken to provide the Investment and defray the expences of the Factory, and only to be debited for the real charges attending collections. We, therefore, direct that at the expiration of the current year, this method be duly observed, and for your more particular information and government, we transmit you a copy of the letter

We are, etc.,

J SPENCER
C S. PLAYDELL
R LEYCESTER
JOHN BURDETT

Enclosed with the Preceding

TO THE HONBLE JOHN SPENCER, ESQ, President and Governor at Fort William

CALCUTTA,

16th December 1764

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

In the books of the Committee of Lands, instead of credit being given for the whole amount of the collections, only such part as is remitted to Calcutta is taken notice of. This occasions great difficulty in the adjustment of the General Books which must in consequence be proved from the general and monthly accounts current, received from each Province. Respecting Burdwan it is of little or no significance, as the Company make no investment and are at no other charges than collecting in the rents consequently the receipts from thence form the net produce, but at Midnapore it is very different. A large sum is invested there yearly a Fort has been built and charges have been incurred exclusive of the collections there in the General Books being placed to the credit of the Committee of Lands occasions a striking difference in the two balances—whilst the end proposed by keeping separate books to show in one short and clear view the amount

Sir Robert Barker as Commander in Chief of Bengal June 18th 1774 to October 29th, 1774 commanded a Brigade in 1774 asked for by the Nawab Wazir of Oudh against the Rohillas defeated them near Tassimb April 23rd 1774 retired 1774 resided at Bath many years. (Buckland) See Sir John Strachey's *History and the Rohilla War*

of the Company's revenues is by no way answered. The General Books cannot credit the Committee of Lands but for what is absolutely accounted for. No notice can be taken of the balance remaining in the hands of the Chief, nor of any advances to the Gomastahs for making the Investment or what balances are outstanding after it is completed. Another point to be considered is the imaginary specie in which the Midnapore accounts current have been kept, estimated at near 6 per cent superior to the highest Coin, the Sica rupee, instead of which I would propose to have the accounts from henceforth kept in Calcutta currency, for the greater facility of entering them in the books of the Presidency, already rendered sufficiently intricate by the numerous adjustments occasioned by difference of exchange, which might have been with greater propriety wrote off in the books of the several Factories.

As yet no books have been kept at Midnapore which, should you think, proper to order, the following method is submitted to your consideration. That the mercantile concerns and accounts of the revenues be two distinct sets of books, the latter to be credited by the former by such part as is kept to defray the expences of the Factory and make the investment. This will show at once the real state of the revenues of the Factory, and in short of every purgannah dependent thereon. I must here remark, that if directions were to be sent to the Gentlemen of Chittagong to keep a separate account of the revenues of that Province, the adjustment of their books would be much easier and more plain.

I am, etc,

RICHARD BARWELL *

Sub-Accountant

FORT WILLIAM,

The 21st January 1765

A true Copy

W MAJENDIE,

Secretary

No. 33

To HUGH WATTS, ESQ., Resident at Midnapore

(SECRET DEPARTMENT)

FORT WILLIAM

8th February 1765

Sir,

We are now to inform you of the demise of the Nabob Meer Jaffier on the 5th instant † and we transmit you enclosed the copy of our letter to the Resident of the Durbar, in answer to his advice thereof, by which you

* My lamented Father! then in his 13th Year only! The whole letter is in my opinion strongly indicative of intellect, depth of judgment, a talent for business, by which he afterwar is become eminently distinguished. E R D.

† The date of Mir Jafar's death is wrongly given by Mill (*History of British India*.) See *Calendar of Persian Correspondence* p. 378

will we understand how to regulate yourself on the occasion, till we are able to give you further instructions^a

We are, etc.,
J SPENCER
C S PLADYELL
R. J EYCESTER.
J BLURDETT.

Copy of the Board's Letter to Mr Middleton

To SAMUEL MIDDLETON, ESQ, Resident at the Durbar

FORT WILLIAM.
The 8th February 1765

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 29th ultimo and 5th instant. Considering the few members at the Presidency, and that Mr Johnstone was so near at hand the President on the receipt of the latter wrote immediately to that Gentleman, desiring he would repair with all expedition to Calcutta to assist us in our deliberations and the proper measures to be taken on the important occasion of the late Nabob's death, and we shall accordingly defer our final resolution till his arrival.

For the present we are to inform you that we are much concerned on this event, and shall pay our proper respect to the memory of the Deceased, by firing minute guns in the evening of this day, and that it is as yet our intent to support the family of Meer Jaffier. But as many arrangements will be necessary which are of such consequence as cannot immediately be determined upon we desire you will in the meantime signify our orders that the Officers of the late Government do carry on the business in usual manner, and when we have fully determined on the points which may occur, a Committee of the Board will be appointed to select the Successor on the Mound in a public and proper manner, that he, as well as whole Country may see, that he receives his Government from the Company¹ and this Committee will have it further in charge to see the said several arrangements carried into execution.

We are etc.,
JOHN SPENCER,
and Council

A true Copy
W MAJENDIE,
Secretary
Secret Department

^a This is perhaps the earliest explicit avowal of British Sovereignty

No. 31.

To HUGH WATT, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

SECRET DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM :
The 28th February 1765.
(Recd. March 2nd.)

Sir,

As the Marhattas have retreated to Cuttack and manifest no further intention of disturbing us, there appears no longer any occasion for the continuance of Major Champion's Detachment in your Province; and we have, accordingly, resolved to ease the Company of that expence and recall it to Calcutta, for which purpose the President now writes the necessary Orders to the Major.

We are, etc ,
J. SENCER
C. S. PLAYDELL.
J. BURDETT
GEORGE GRAY.

No 35

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
The 6th March, 1765

Sir,

The Nabob Najim Dowla¹ having now acceded to the Treaty² which we proposed to him, and been in consequence seized by our Deputies on the Muzond, we shall, accordingly to-morrow proclaim here his Accession to the Subahdaree in proper form, and we enclose you herewith a copy of the Proclamation that the same may be done at your Factory

We are, etc ,
J. SENCER
C. S. PLAYDELL.
J. BURDETT
GEORGE GRAY.

A Proclamation

The Nabob Meer Mohamed Jaffer Cawn Bahadur, having demised, and the Nabob Najimoo Dowlah his eldest son having been declared and appointed to the Subahdarry of the Provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, We the President and Council of Fort William, on behalf of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies do now proclaim the Nabob Nazimoo Dowlah Bahadur, Subhadar of the Provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and declare that we will assist and support him to the utmost of our power in his Government.

¹ Najmu-d-daulah

* * See Verelst *View of the Rise and Progress of the English Government in Bengal* Appendix pp 164-6

Given under our hands and the seal of the said United Company,
at Fort William, this 7th March, 1765.

A true Copy..

W. MAJENDIE,
Secretary.

JOHN SPENCER,
and Council.

No. 36.

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM.
The 22nd April, 1765.
(Recd. 25th).

SIR,

The President having informed us that you have represented to him a want of another Assistant at your Factory, and intimated a desire of having Mr Edward Fenwick with you in that capacity, we have appointed him, and given him directions to proceed to you accordingly.

We are, etc.

S. SPENCER
G. S. PLAIDELL.

J. BURDETT
GEORGE GRAY¹

No. 37.

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM:
3rd May 1765.
(Recd. 4th)

SIR,

This serves to advise you of the arrival this day of Lord Clive, and that he has taken upon him the Government of this Presidency agreeably to the Company's appointment.

We are, etc.

CLIVE
G. S. PLAIDELL.
FRAS. SYKES²
R. LEYCESTER
J. BURDETT.
GEORGE GRAY.

¹ See Sterndale's *Historical Account of the Calcutta Collectorate*, pp 18—9

² Arrived 9th July 1751, aged 25 Made prisoner, but escaped to French Factory A member of the Factory at Cosimbazar in 1756 Escaped with W. Watts from Murshidabad before Plassey Resigned the Service 1760 Took home with him Hastings' infant son Returned to India with Lord Clive 1765 Member of the Select Committee. Chief of Cosimbazar His first wife (Catherine Ridley, married 7th February 1766) is buried in the South Park Street Cemetery, Calcutta He was created a Baronet in 1781 Sir F. Sykes and Lady Sykes died in 1804 of Scarlet fever caught from their son Brit Museum. Add MS 29,179 F 296

No. 38

To HUGH WALLACE, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

FORT WILLIAM

May 6th, 1765

SIR,

We transmit enclosed for your information and government an extract from the Honble Company's last General Letter under date the 1st June, 1764, and as the Committee mentioned will immediately be formed you will in future pay due regard thereto accordingly

We have received your letter of the 29th ultimo, with samples of the cloth and papers accompanying, and have directed an examination and report to be made of the former, of which you will be duly advised. We have also order'd the samples you apply to be sent you

We are etc,

CLIVE

WM B SUMNER

C S PLAYDELL

JOHN JOHNSTONE

FRA SYKES

J BURDETT

GEORGE GRAY

*Extract from the Honble Company's General Letter to
Fort William dated 1st June 1764*

Para 67 The General Court of Proprietors having on account of the critical situation of the Company's affairs in Bengal requested Lord Clive to take upon himself the station of President and the Command of the Company's Military forces there his Lordship has been appointed President and Governor accordingly, as mentioned in the preceding part of this letter. The intention of the General Court in desiring Lord Clive to go to Bengal was that by his Lordship's character and influence peace and tranquility might be easier restored and established in that Subaship. In order therefore, to answer those purposes in a manner that we apprehend may prove most effectual we have thought proper to appoint a Committee on this occasion consisting of his Lordship Mr Wm Brightwell Sumner Brigadier General Carnac also Messrs Harry Verelst and Francis Sykes to whom we give full powers to pursue what ever means they shall judge most proper to attain those desirable ends but however in all cases where it can be conveniently done the Council at large is to be consulted by the said Committee though the power of determining is to be in that Committee alone. We further direct that as soon as peace and tranquility are restored and established in the Subaship of Bengal then the extraordinary powers are immediately to cease and the said Committee to be dissolved

68 As we would have the said Committee, so long as it is necessary to exist as before mentioned to consist of five members in case therefore

of a vacancy or vacancies by death or absence from Fort William, they are to be filled up by the said Committee out of such of the civil members of the Council as they shall think proper from time to time

69 We are also to inform you, and direct that the said Committee is to be the Committee for defending the Settlement, in case of being attacked by an enemy, agreeable to the directions and rules, laid down in our letter of the 12th May, 1768, to which is to be added Sir Robert Barker, the Colonel and Commandant of the Corps of Artillery

A true extract,
W MAJENDIE,
Secretary

No 39

To HUGH WATTS, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

SELECT COMMITTEE
FORT WILLIAM
The 18th May 1765
(Recd 17th May 1765)

SIR,

Having under our consideration the forming of a general plan for trade in the article of salt, in consequence of Orders from the Hon ble Company, we desire you will immediately transmit for our information advice of the present state of the several works within your districts, and as it is proposed among other points that all salt shall be collected by contract, we further desire you will acquaint us whether it will be agreeable to you to contract for the produce of your districts, in which case you will please to present your terms

We are, etc,
OLIVE
WM B SUMNER
H VERELST
JRA. SYKES

No 40

To HUGH WATTS Esq, Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM
The 15th July 1765
(Recd 19th July 1765)

SIR,

This serves purposely to advise you that Mr Durand the gentleman appointed Commissary for receiving¹ the French Factory at Balasore, arrived

here on his way, and will proceed immediately, and to direct you to join him without loss of time for the execution of your commission in restoring it

We are, etc,

WM B SUMNER
C S PLAYDELL
RALPH LEYCESTER
GEORGE GRAY

No 40

To HUGH WATTS, Esq Resident at Midnapore

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT
FORT WILLIAM
12th August 1765
(Recd 17th August 1765)

SIR,

Having now fully considered the matter in debate between you and the gentlemen at Burdwan from the representations received on each part respecting the bunds and being fully satisfied that the loss in the Burdwan Province from erecting any new one will be considerably greater than in Midnapore we direct that the new one throwing up at Bulrampore may be immediately cut away and that no new one be made

We are to inform you that we have now established certain regulations for conducting the Inland Trade in the articles of Salt Beetlenut and Tobacco agreeably to orders received from the Honble Company and that the same are to be immediately carried into execution by a Committee of Trade consisting of Messrs Sumner Verelst Leycester and Gray who are for that purpose to correspond with several subordinate Factories and to take all such other measures as may appear to them proper and we therefore direct that you do pay a due regard to whatever instructions you may from time to time receive from them in matters relative to this trade and address them accordingly in return

We have received your letters of the 29th and 31st ultimo with the despatch of treasure and peace goods advised to accompany the former

We are etc

WM B SUMNER
C S PLAYDELL
H VEIELST
RALPH LEYCESTER
J BURDETT
GEORGE GRAY

No 41

To HUGH WATTS, Esq., Resident at Midnapore

COMMITTEE OF TRADE

FORT WILLIAM

*The 12th August 1765**(Recd 17th August 1765)*

Sir

You have been advised by the President and Council of our appointment to form a Committee for managing, on behalf of the Publick Society, the scheme for carrying on in the future the Inland Trade in the articles of Salt Beetelnut and Tobacco. We therefore, think it proper to open a correspondence with you which will be kept up from time to time as occasion may require.

The present serves to enclose you an Advertisement publishing the commencement of this trade, and prohibiting all persons for interfering therein unless as contractors with the Society. The same you will please to circulate throughout your districts that no one may have the power to pretend ignorance or enter into engagements contrary to the exclusive right of the Society. The advertisement further contains publication that the Committee will be ready to receive proposals for contracting for salt, beetelnut and tobacco, and to take money into their treasury at interest for carrying on this trade. These particulars you will also please to make known, that the Society may reap the full benefit of all proposals and offers in both these points.

But as it is resolv'd that the preference in contracting shall be given to the Factories adjacent to these districts where the articles are produc'd, we desire you will favour us immediately with such proposals as you have to offer to our consideration the great advance of the season requiring that settlement of the contracts should be no longer delayed.

We are, etc,

WM B SUMNER

H VIBBLEST

RALPH LUTCHETER

GEOFFREY GRAY

be agreeable to you to contract, it will behove us to throw the business into such other hands as will tender the most advantageous terms for the Society.

We are, etc,

WM B SUMNER
H VERELST
R LEYCESTER
GEORGE GRAY

No 42

To HUGH WATTS, ESQ, Resident at Midnapore.

GENERAL LETTER
FORT WILLIAM
The 7th October 1765
(Recd 9th October 1765)

SIR

We are to inform you that the business of the Midnapore Province is not esteemed of sufficient consequence to require the presence of a Member of the Board and that your appointment there is in consequence set aside, and that Mr John Graham is nominated Resident in your room. We have directed this Gentleman to proceed accordingly, and he is readiness to receive charge of the Factory upon your quitting it, but if your private business should require your continuance there for some time, you have our permission to remain as long as three months. Mr Hatley and Mr Fenwick are also ordered to repair to the Presidency.

We are etc,

CLIVE
WM B SUMNER
JOHN CANNAC

R LEYCESTER

No 13

To HUGH WATTS, ESQ, Resident at Midnapore.

enjoin you not to lend money to the Zemindars within the Province of Midnapore without the consent of this Committee, or of the Governor and Council, nor to any Zemindars or other servants of the Publick in the Nabob's dominions but with the approbation of the Ministers, Mahomed Reza Cawn Juggut Seet¹ and Doolabram² to which we require your strict obedience on pain of suspension.

We further direct that you will see these our Orders exactly obeyed by such gentlemen as may reside in your subordinate stations, as well as by your banians and dependents, and also that you will confine yourself to the business of the collections and your own private affairs, carefully avoiding every step that can possibly affect the Company's interest.

It is also our desire that you will send to Calcutta by the 21st day of this month all Free Merchants and other Europeans implied in our former Orders to you on the subject, as we are determined not to extend our indulgence beyond that period.

We are etc,
CLIVE
WM B SUMNER
JOHN CAENAC
H VPRELST

No 44

TO THE HONBLE LORD CLIVE President and Governor of ye
Council of Fort William

MIDNAPORE
December 1765

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

In pursuance of your appointment I arrived here the 29th ultimo and Mr Watts being ready to return to Calcutta I received from him the charge of the Factory on the 1st instant.

Three months of the new year is now near elapsed and the present being the proper season for settling the teskees I am to request your Lordship's Orders on that subject.

I am with great respect
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 44

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM Resident at Midnapore

GENERAL LETTER
FORT WILLIAM
The 9th December 1765
(Recd 13th December
Ansd 20th December 1765)

SIR

We have received your letter of the 3rd instant advising of your having received charge of your Factory from Mr Watts and requesting

-
- * ¹ Jagat Seth of the famous family of native shroffs & bankers
 - * ² Raja Ra Durlabb the Raj Raman

our orders with respect to the adjustment of teshkees of the present year

In answer to this application, we have to direct that you do not settle the collections for less than what lands yielded last year, and we desire you will inform yourself, and make such advance as, upon enquiry, you may judge they will bear consistently with the good of the country

We are to advise you that Sicca rupees of the sixth and seventh years of his present Majesty's reign have been lately coined and issued from the Nabob's and the Hon'ble Company's Mints, but, as they have both been circulated nearly at the same time, we have determined, in order to prevent the inconveniences and difficulties which arise from falling the batta of the six sun sicces in the usual manner to 13 per cent, to keep them at 15 per cent till the 1st of March next, and from that time at 14 per cent till the 1st of June, after which they will pass current at 13 per cent, and the sicca rupees of the fifth year which are now at 13 per cent. will at the same time fall to sonnauts and pass at 11 per cent batta

We are, etc,

CLIVE
WM B SUMNER
JOHN CARNAC
H VERELST
HUGH WATTS

No 45

To MR JOHN GRAHAM, Resident at Midnapore

(SELECT COMMITTEE.)

FORT WILLIAM

The 20th December 1765

(Received 23rd)

SIR,

Notwithstanding the orders you may have lately received from the Board, we must now desire that you will come to no positive agreement with the former, until Mr Verelst's arrival, as we propose to appoint him Supervisor of the collections of Midnapore, on the same footing as at Burdwan

There is is great reason to hope the collections may be very considerably encreased, without over-rating the lands or laying the people under any real grievance, and as we think no inconvenience can arise from deferring the settlement a few weeks longer, we direct you to make the strictest inquiry into the actual value of the lands, in order that you may assist the Supervisor with such intelligence as may enable him to let them upon leases more advantageous than have hitherto been granted

We are, etc,

CLIVE
WM B SUMNER
JOHN CARNAC
H VERELST.

No 46

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA

23rd January 1766

(Received 24th 1766)

SIR

I have received your favor of the 18th instant, and request you will forward me as soon as possible the estimate of the Midnapore revenues I was forming from the wasilat khan papers completed, as well as those of the Jellapore Province when I will apply to the gentlemen of the Committee for their approval of the adjustment with the zemindars with the reserve you mention, as I am sensible they ought not to be delayed at Midnapore, as their absence from their several districts may be prejudicial to the collections. The copy of the Canoongo's* sunnud you forgot to enclose. However I will procure a copy from the city, i.e. Murshidabad, tho' I am convinced that the establishment of all Canoongo allowances are fixed like commission which ought to fall in proportion on every part of the revenue. The Canoongo rassoom etc, at Midnapore does not which convinces me they are taking what they have no authority for, for if the present mode was not more beneficial they would not pursue it. Their nankar is I believe also established and I will venture to say that you will find a greater than they have a right to. Mr Watts tells me that in the estimation he made of what the Canoongo receive he included the nankar, which made it amount to Rs 70 000. Every other circumstance mentioned in your letter, I am necessitated to defer till the dispatch of the ship which will be on Monday next, after which, you may be assured I shall lose no time in getting everything adjusted and I hope to your satisfaction. The report you have heard of the Battalion being intended to be withdrawn from Midnapore and only 3 companies left is groundless or I would have applied for Mr Pillans to have remained in the command.

My complements to Mrs Graham. The Malan and Rhyme will go to morrow

I am, etc,

H VERELST

No 47

MIDNAPORE

The 24th December 1765

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD CLIVE,

*President and Govr and Gentlemen of the**Select Committee of Fort William*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

In pursuance of the orders which were sent me by the President and Council, I had begun to adjust the Settlement of the Lands, and had [informed] them of my Intentions to levy such an Increase upon the Present

* Canoongo (Qanun-law Go one who speaks) The village or district revenue officer representing the interests of the Government as against the Patwari, representing the cultivators

Rents as it might appear the Country could bear I have now received the letter from your Committee of the 20th instant in obedience to which I shall suspend my further proceedings in this business until the arrival of Mr Verelst, whom you have thought proper to appoint Supervisor

I am sorry to be given to understand by this Resolution that your Lordship and Gentlemen deem me unequal to the appointment I have had the honor to receive from you, for after its being declared as the unanimous opinion of the Council that this Residency was not a station which required the presence of a Member of the Board, either my integrity or capacity must, I am afraid, stand very defective in your esteem, to occasion the nomination of a Member of the Select Committee to settle the revenues of an inconsiderable province and supervise the proceedings of the Resident

At the same time that I wrote the Board in the general manner above-mentd, I did myself the honor to address Lord Clive, acquainting him in more particular terms of my intentions myself and expectations in regard to an increase and I must now take the liberty to transmit a Copy of that address for your information I have there set forth the only Funds that remains for adding to the Revenues of this province and promised that the utmost it can yield shall be obtained for the Company Will your Lordship and Gent then indulge me so far as to receive an Estimate from myself this proposed Increase? If when it appears before you, it should not in every respect answer your expectations I shall with great cheerfulness assist in realizing such a plan as you may think proper to order under the Conduct of Mr Verelst But if on the contrary, my estimate of increase shall meet with your approbation you will not see that necessity for lessening my authority which I think might always prove of prejudice to the Public Business in the absence of the Superior

As to your proposition of letting the Lands on more advantageous Leases than have been hitherto granted, I imagine it might proceed from your not being sufficiently advised of the Constitution of this Province, There is no part of the Lands occupied by Farmers the whole is possessed by hereditary Zemindars who derive their Right from original Sanads granted to their ancestors By these they are entitled to the residue of the rents after paying the Government's Revenue and when the increase now intended is added to their former payments I do not apprehend that there will remain of the proportion more than a scanty maintenance, which were they to be dispossessed of entirely, must always be allowed them

I am etc, etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 48

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD CLIVE, President and Governor, etc
Council of Fort William

MIDNAPORE

20th December 1765

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 9th instant in consequence thereof I have sent orders to several zemindars to repair to Midnapore and whenever they arrive I shall proceed in adjusting th

teshkees, observing to levy such an increase upon the present settlement as it may appear the lands can yield, without risk of distressing the ryots If your Lordship and Council have any further commands for my instruction in this business, I request I may be favor'd with them as soon as possible

Your directions in regard to the rates of Rupees shall be duly attended to in the receipt of the Revenues

In a few days more I shall have a Dispatch of about 80,000 Rupees in Treasure and 6 or 7,000 pieces of the Compy's Investment ready to send to Calcutta, I request therefore that four mutwas may be order'd down to Gopgacolly to receive it

I am, with great respect, etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 49.

MIDNAPORE

The 29th December 1765

TO THE RIGHT HON^{BLE} LORD CLIVE,

President and Govr, etc, Council of Fort William

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Under an Escort of a Havildar and Twelve Seapoys I now despatch to Gongicolly seventeen Chests of treasure and one hundred and forty seven bales of piece goods to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta, the Invoices hereof shall be transmitted by the Dawks

I am, with due respect etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 50

MIDNAPORE

The 31st December 1765

TO THE RIGHT HON^{BLE} LORD CLIVE

President and Govr, ye Council of Fort William

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN

This serves to enclose to you—the invoices of 17 chests of treasure and 147 Bales piece goods dispatched this day to Gongacolly, to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta, The invoice of the treasure amounts to Sixca Rupees 10,000 and that of the piece goods to Arcot Rupees 35 607 14 0

If four mutwas have not been ordered to Gongicolly, agreeable to the request in my letter of the 20th, it will be necessary to send them down immediately on receipt hereof

I am, with due respect,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 51.

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

CALCUTTA

*The 27th Jany 1766**(Received 28th Jany 1766)*

SIR,

Your favors of the 23rd and 28th instant with the several papers accompanying them I have received. The complete estimate of the Midnapore and Jellaspore revenues is very complete, and as no Committee will be held for some days, I have showed it to the Gentlemen, and recommended an immediate adjustment to be made with the Zemindars on that statement and I am desirous to write to you to do it as soon as possible that they may return to the business of the collections. I would recommend to you to make a reserve in the deeds they sign for anything further than may appear. I will write you very fully upon, as the business we are in is a little over, on every point mentioned in yours.

My compliments to Mrs Graham and Mr. Pellans

I am etc

No. 52

MIDNAPORE

The 8th February 1766

To THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD CLIVE,

President and Govr, etc, Council of Fort William

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Under an Escort of a Havildar and twelve Seapoys, I now dispatch to Gongacolly fifteen chests of treasure to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta. The invoice thereof shall be transmitted by the dawk.

I am, with due respect, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 53

To THE HONBLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC

MIDNAPORE

8th February 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

This serves to enclose you the invoice of fifteen chests of treasure, dispatched this day to Gongacolly, to be forwarded from there to Calcutta. The amount thereof is Sicca Rupees 88,000, which, together with my draft upon Mr Lawrell¹ of 12,000 Sonit Rupees are enclosed, makes up the remittance to Rs 1,00,000. I further transmit you three drafts for our

¹ James Lawrell had been transferred to Bengal from Madras in 1758. He had been trained as an Engineer at Woolwich. Naval Storekeeper 1763. Member of Revenue Committee of Circuit 1772. Zemindar of Calcutta 1774.

Military Paymaster General amounting to Current Rupees 16 870-9 0, and the accounts of the Factory for the months of December and January

I am, with great respect,

[J GRAHAM]

No 54

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA

The 10th February, 1766

SIR,

The extreme hurry of business we have been in has prevented my replying to your several favours but you may depend on my not delaying it longer than to have the sentiments of the Committee on the several different subjects. To day I had only an opportunity of their sentiments on the representation I made of the immediate necessity of advancing money for the cultivation of the lands this season which I have the pleasure of informing you you have their permission for doing so long as you receive for the same no greater interest than from 20 to 24 per cent per annum, but on no account to exceed the latter This I hope will prove satisfactory and advantageous to yourself

My compliments to Mrs Graham¹

I am etc,

H VERELST

No 55

To THE HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC

MIDNAPUR

5th March 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN

Under an escort of a naick and six seapoys I now dispatch to Gonagolly nine bales of piece goods to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta the invoice thereof shall be transmitted by the dawks

I am, with great respect

[J GRAHAM]

No 56

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM at Midnapore

COMMITTEE OF TRADE

FORT WILLIAM

March 7th, 1766

(Received 10th March 1766)

SIR

We are now to acquaint your that the price we have fixed for disposing of the Society's Salt at Anundpoor is two rupees per maund of eight sicca wt, and we desire you will sell what quantity you can at that price without

¹ St John's Marriage Register 1762 August 8 Mr John Graham and Miss Mary Shewin.

drawing any commissions on the sales You will please to inform any persons that purchase and ask for a dustuck with it, that we shall grant it them, on application being made by you for it

In order that the business of the Society may not be obstructed by new salt being imported into the Midnapore districts, we request you will seize all you can get intelligence of, and deliver it to the Society at the price we have agreed to pay for salt to be received at Anundpoor

We are,
H VERELST
HUGH WATTS

No 57

TO THE RIGHT HON BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC

MIDNAPORE
10th March 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have received your commands of the 3rd instant and in consequence thereof I now transmit a statement of the Company's investment providing at this Factory The reasons which I have assigned for the increase and decrease of the different articles, as well as for the advance in the prices, may it is very possible be in some measure found defective, the contracts with the merchants having been made, and the *dadney*¹ advanced before my appointment to the Factory In such case, however I apprehend Mr Watts the late Resident, will be able to give you whatever further information you may require In pursuance of your orders, a statement of the Factory to the 5th instant is also provided

In these three months past an abstract of the nature you direct has been regularly forwarded to the President I shall continue to observe it as a rule to do so, and your other regulations shall likewise be strictly adhered to so far as they regard myself or this Factory

A dispatch of 89 bales of piece goods was sent from hence the 5th instant and forwarded on boats from Gongacolly I now enclose to your Lordship etc, the invoice thereof and as I shall have a dispatch of treasure ready in a few days I request that two boats may be kept in readiness at Gongacolly to receive it

I am, etc etc,
[J. GRAHAM]

No 58

TO THE RIGHT HON BLE LORD CLIVE ETC ETC

MIDNAPORE:
16th March 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Under an escort of a Havildar and 12 sepoy I now dispatch to Gongacolly sixteen chests of treasure to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta The invoice thereof shall be transmitted by dawk

I am etc
[JOHN GRAHAM]

¹ Didai corruption of d dani—payment in advance to manufacturers

No 59

TO WM B SUMNER, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE
FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPUR
16th March 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your letter of the 7th instant advertising me that you have fixed two Rupees per Md of 80 S^r Wt for the selling price of your salt at Anundpore. I shall be very glad if it is in my power to dispose of it at that rate for the benefit of the Society, but at present I must acquaint you that there is no such prospect. The merchants are now here who used to be the purchasers, and this also is their customary season of purchasing so as to arrive at Ghya before the setting in of the rains but they all declare to me that they dare not venture to buy at such an enhanced price, until their advices from the up-country merchants of the state of the markets above shall afford them a prospect of profiting by their purchases. I am apt to conclude, therefore, that, exclusive of what may be wanted for the consumption of the province—perhaps 10 or 12,000 mds—we shall not be able to effect any considerable sales till after the rains.

Every service in my power shall be cheerfully render'd the Society without any consideration being expected or required. I have appointed a gomastah under me named Godadar Holdar for receiving and selling the salt at Anundpore, and as I am now beginning to transport thither from the Collarees I have given him orders to erect golahs at the Society's expense.

I beg leave to submit to your approbation the following list of servants to be employed at the golahs together with their monthly wages—

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| A Gomastah | A | Rs | 30 |
| A Golah keeper Tavildar | ... | , | 15 |
| One Moberer | | | 10 |
| One Jemantdar | | | 5 |
| Four Peons—3½ each | . | , | 14 |
| One Weighman | | " | 5 |
| Four Weighmen Cooleys—3 each | | , | 12 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Per Md A | Rs | .. | 91 |
| <hr/> | | | |

I must not omit to remark to you that by the merchants above mentioned, I mean the merchants of this country, who, for these three years past have been the only purchasers of salt, the up-country merchants having received some disgust during Mr Bardett's residence, have not since that time come personally to Anundpore, but united in some of the adjacent districts for the salt being brought to them altho' I have not heard this year of their arrival at all.

I am, Gentlemen, etc etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 60

To MR JOHN GRAHAM, at Midnapore

CALCUTTA,

The 17th March 1766

SIR

The Select Committee have desired me to recommend your persevering in the scrutiny of the Zemindars private accounts in order to obtain a complete and just valuation of the lands in the Midnapore and Jallasore provinces, for which purpose you should begin a circuit to the different pergunnahs as the being yourself on the spot will more immediately effect their intentions. The extraordinary expence you will be at on this occasion you will charge the Company on but the Committee recommend your being as saving as possible. They have further appointed you an allowance of Rs 12 000 per annum for the expence of your table, etc, etc, to be charged by you monthly.

We direct that the annual revenues be concluded the end of August and the close of the year, that no encroachment may in future be made on the new year for the payment of the preceding year's balances, all old balances which appear of Mr Watts' adjustment of the pergunnah accounts must be struck off, but before you do that, I must recommend to you to be very circumspect and certain that the rents of such pergunnahs do now yield as much as their present state will admit, for it is on a supposition that they are fully taxed and not able to pay such balances, that the Committee do consent to their being struck off. The rank of the canoongoes is esteemed a sufficient and adequate allowance to them for their trouble and the maintenance of their families. The Committee are of opinion that the office of canoongoes will hereafter be unnecessary and do not choose any further appointments should be made them. In consideration of the present canoon goes having so long held their appointments, they are willing that they and their children should continue but on their demise the office is to cease. The duty on goods in the Jallasore Province must be collected as usual, and that no exception may be made, the same is to be levied on the goods of the Company as on all other persons. The reduction of the Zemindars to the westward you will undertake as soon as possible and their forts (except such as you may think necessary for the protection of the Country) must be entirely demolished. Such of the Zemindars as may readily submit and engage for the regular payment of their revenues agreeable to the custom of other parts of the provinces may be continued, those that do not should be entirely rooted out, and other persons appointed to the charge of their Zemindaries. I shall write to Mr Ashburner to return you from Burdwan the detachments you have made from the Midnapore Battalion and to assist you (should you require it) with what further force you may want. What servants you may find necessary [to send] into the pergunnahs for the collections must be paid by you, and the Company charged for the same at as reasonable a rate as their services can be procured for.

The Committee have established the following batty of rupees for the receipt of all the collections in the Midnapore and Jallasore Provinces, and I request you will order the same to be made public in every cutchery—that the zemindars and riotts may know at what rate the rupees will be estimated

on the payment of their rents. This, I hope, will remove every oppression of the zemindars on the ryotts on this occasion

| | | | Rs. | A. | | Allot. | Rs. |
|---|----------|--------------|-----|----|---|--------|----------------|
| 7 | Sunn | Sicca | 100 | @ | 6 | 4 | per cent 93-12 |
| 6 | do | do | 100 | @ | 7 | 4 | do 92-12 |
| 8 | do | do | 100 | @ | 7 | 12 | do 92-3 |
| | Sonnau's | ... | 100 | @ | 9 | 0 | do 90-10 |
| | Nokra Rs | Sicca Weight | 100 | @ | 0 | 14 | do 90-2 |

My appointment as Supervisor was not of my seeking but the request of the Committee. Their sense of the business is that it is not yet fixed on a determinate plan, and have, therefore, desired me to continue it. Your earnestness for the annulment of this appointment I do not suppose arises for the motive you mention, but I cannot think your situation unbecoming the rank you hold in the service, any more than Mr Ashburner's at Bordwan. Were you in Calcutta you must be under the immediate orders of one of the members of the Board, unless in one or two offices. As for my depriving you for any credit in your business, the strictest justice has been already done you in the representation of affairs to the Court of Directors.

I am, etc.,

H VERELST

No 61

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC., ETC

MIDNAPUR.

18th March 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

On the 16th instant I dispatched to your Lordship etc, 16 chests of treasure. The invoice thereof is now enclosed amounting to Rs. 91,500 which, together with a bill of exchange upon Mr. Lawrell for 5 Son Sa Rs. 5,500 also enclosed, compleats the remittance to Rupees 1,00,000. I further transmit you a draft upon the Paymaster General for the amount of our military disbursements for February and the accounts of the Factory for the same month.

I am, etc.

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 62

TO WM B SUMNER, ESQ. AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE
AT FORT WILLIAM

SHAWPORE:

29th March 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have received a letter from Mr. Marriott at Ballasore advising me that a number of bejarees with about 2,000 head of carriage bullocks, came into Busta, a village in the Moratta district adjoining to the Province of Jalleore, with an intention to purchase and carry away a quantity of salt, and desiring that I would interpose to prevent this enquiry to the Society's

trade. As I have it not in my power to exercise force in the Moratia territories, I have been able to afford Mr Marriott no further assistance than by writing letters to the Ballahore Phouadar and the Resident at Cuttack explaining the nature of the Society's privileges, and desiring that they will not countenance its illicit infringement of them. I do not apprehend however, that my endeavours will have the desired effect; and I, therefore, thought proper to advise you of the circumstance that you may take what further means you may think necessary to put an effectual stop to this practice. It is not the quantity of salt that they can carry away that is to be regarded (altho' it is very possible it may effect my sales at Anundpore), but the example which it sets for depressing and underselling the Society's exclusive grants and thereby prejudicing the general scheme.

I am, etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 63

TO HARRY VIVELST ESQ, ETC, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL OF
FORT WILLIAM

KHURDA

11th April 1766

GENTLEMEN

Being at present employed, pursuant to orders from the Secret Committee in making a circuit of the Midnapore and Jalesore Provinces, I take the liberty to trouble you with the accompanying extract from my observations on the Pargana of Cossurah, as I am of opinion that the subject thereof may merit your consideration.

The case of Bulrampore bund received your decision in the month of August last year, but as it does not appear that the circumstance of there being no actual loss on the part of Burdwan, and that by repairing and strengthening their bund, there is a possibility of saving both countries, were at that time sufficiently attended to I presume now to represent it to you again, and to request that it may be re-considered with these additional lights. That no actual loss has accrued to the Burdwan province needs not to be insisted on, and that there is a possibility of securing both countries seems to me to be plainly implied from Captain De Gloss' draught and report. At present I understand that the Burdwan bund is totally out of repair being greatly sunk and broke down in a number of places. It might, therefore, very well be represented by the Aamin, who went from that factory, that the river would most probably overflow on the Chitwah side, but I believe it is the opinion of Captn De Gloss that the repairing of that bund and deepening at the same time the channel of the river by digging the earth out of it which might be required for the work, would effectually secure both parganas from inundation, and thereby prevent loss to either. It upon a further enquiry, it is found that this can be effected, I make no doubt but you will issue your orders accordingly.

The other circumstance of shutting up the mouth of Deanyath Creek by the bund at Mandargatchee cannot but appear, (after the offers made on the part of the Cossurah Raja to Raja Tilluckhund) to be a very unmerited injury and injustice, and, as it moreover occasions such a considerable

loss to the Company's lands in this Province, I hope your immediate directions will be given for having it remedied

The present is the season of cultivation, and, if I can obtain your favourable determination on the foregoing points, we may still expect to reap the benefit thereof, by encouraging the ryots to work those lands which hitherto they have been so much averse to for reason of their being liable to inundation

If the Cossijurah Raja is permitted to repair the bund at Bulrampore, he will require the assistance of some money for that purpose I request, therefore to know whether I may in such case, make him an advance out of the Treasury, to be repaid in the ensuing year in the same manner as his poolbundee The expense which the Raja was at last year on this account amounts to upwards of 4 000 rupees, for which he has had no allowance made him, altho' the bund was cut by a public order

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

Extract from Mr Graham's Remarks on the Purgana of Cossijurah in the Province of Midnapore

The Branch of the Cassai, mentioned in the account of Shawpore and Calabpore, another small river called the Kero and several creeks pass through this Purgana so that the land which is cultivated, is in a very flourishing condition, but the country being very low is subject almost to constant inundations which occasion considerable loss to the revenues, and great distress to the Raja Last year, for example the cutting of the bund (which he had raised) at Bulrampore in consequence of the Burdwan Factory's representation to the Board caused a loss to the Cossijurah country by the overflowing of the river Pittowah, of at least Rs 6 000, besides the expense which the Raja had been at in the work, and a like loss may very well be apprehended annually as he is now positively forbid to make any other bund there The Board's orders were given in consequence of the Burdwan representation that a greater loss might accrue to the Company, if the river should break their bund and burst out on their side, but that the river did actually break their bund was by no means the case, and the repairing and strengthening of their bund, I imagine, would have prevented it and saved both countries The Burdwan Raja could very well have afforded such an expense and, with all due deference, the Factory there should rather, I think have tried this method than made such a pressing application to the Board to have the Cossijurah bund cut, upon mere supposition, and which was attended with this additional grievance of being out at a time (the middle of August) when the crop was almost ready for reaping The Company's interest, I will allow, deserves all manner of precaution and attention, but surely the Cossijurah Raja's case merits also some consideration if by this order he is to be subjected to a certain and continued loss, upon the supposition that a greater loss might ensue in Burdwan He is now in arrears to the Company account last year's rent about Rs 20,000, Rs 10 000 of which may be said to have arisen from the affairs of this bund, and he finds himself greatly difficulted to pay up his present malguzarry, of which this amongst others is the cause.

Another loss, which he suffers proceeds also from the conduct of the Burdwan people. The waters which collect in Coşjurah in the time of the rains should find their outlet into the Roşjnarain by a creek (called Denyerah Creek) that runs through a small part of the Pargana Mundlegant. This part which the creek passes through being very low land, there is a risk of its overflowing in its course to the Roşjnarain perhaps 100 or 150 bigahs in the Mundlegant Pargana, to prevent which considerable loss the Buriwan people stop the course of the waters by shutting up the mouth of the creek at a place called Mundergatcher, and throw them back upon Coşjurah to the ruin of no less than 5 000 bigahs of arable land in that country. This besides being such a considerable loss to the Rajá appears to be a piece of the greatest injustice and has been of long duration, and the offers which he heretofore made to Tilluckchand of making a bund thro the Mundlegant grounds on each side of the creek and giving up to that Pargana a quantity of cultivated land out of his own country equivalent to that would be wasted in raising such a bund were neither accepted nor listen'd to

No 63

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA

10th April 1766

SIR

I should have replied sooner to your letter of the 26th of March had not the hurry of business or the dispatch of the ships, which have not yet left the river, Lord Clive's departure and my being constantly engaged in bringing up the public business which had been left behind prevented me

I think your reasons for not persevering in an immediate scrutiny into the Zemindars' accounts very just, and, for the present you had better collect what materials you can during your circuit, and resume the scrutiny in the month of July. Mr Ashburner has represented to me that he has not seapoys sufficient for the immediate duty at Burdwan owing to the very large detachments that have been sent from that Battalion, so that there will be absolute necessity of deferring the expedition against the Zungle Zemindars till the rains are over

You have been already advised from the Committee of Trade in regard to Mr Stibberts' salt collaries

I am, etc,

B VERELST

No 64.

TO HARRY VERELST, ESQ, ETC, ETC

AGRACHAW

11th April 1776

GENTLEMAN

I have received your commands of the 31st ultimo and the rule which is laid down shall in future be punctually observed

I did myself the honour to address you under date 6th instant relative to some points which occur'd in the Purgana of Coosjorah, and having since visited all the districts of Midnapore, excepting what are situated to the S.-W., I am now advanced into the Province of Jalesore. I am very sorry to find, as well as from my own observation as from the inspection of the accounts of the Purganas, that there is vast quantities of lands lying waste in this Province which, from the scarcity of ryotts, there is very little hopes of our being able to cultivate, notwithstanding it is all arable ground. In the Purgana of Agrachaw alone they have rendered me an account of upwards of 10,000 begas on this situation, owing entirely to the deficiency of ryotts: and, unless we can by some means procure an increase of them, the lands must still remain in the same desolated state. With a view to prevent, if possible so great a loss, and to effect an object, which may prove beneficial to the Company's interest and the good of the country, I have proposed the granting talooks out of the waste lands to any responsible persons, who may offer and engage to come and settle on them with the ryotts: and I have to that purpose issued a proclamation in the cutcherries. The terms, which I have stipulated, you will find contained in the accompanying extract from my remarks on the aforesaid Purgana; and, if they meet with your approbation, I beg to submit it to your consideration, whether it may not possibly assist my endeavours to publish those terms in Calcutta.

I am, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

Extract from Mr. Graham's remarks on the Purgana of Agrachour in the Province of Jalesore.

The lands of this Purgana are $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas in possession of the Chowdrey and $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the hands of 18 Talookdars, but I am sorry to understand and observe that they are far from being in a flourishing state. According to the accounts which the Chowdrey and Talookdars render, the Malguzary is paid from the rents of about 6,000 begas which is cultivated, whilst upwards of 10,000 begas of arable land is lying waste, exclusive of the jungles and hazaar zemins. Last year, the Chowdrey and Talookdars executed an obligation to Mr. Watts to cultivate 2,500 begas of this land, but I do not find they have exceeded 500. In short, I see no prospect of getting such a quantity of land cultivated, but by dividing it into talooks, and appointing such responsible persons as may offer to talooks of 1,000 or 1,500 begas. Depending, therefore, that this method will be approved of as tending both to the Company's interest and the good of the country, I have issued a proclamation accordingly in the Cutcherry, which now moves with me, at the Cutcherry of Midnapore, and in the Cutcherry of the Purgana. The terms I have stipulated for the pottahs to the ryotts are as follows:—

Lands which produce other crops besides paddy, to pay.

Lands which produce only paddy, to pay.

The 1st year ... As. 5 per bega.
 " 2nd " ... " 11 " "
 " 3rd " ... Re. 1 " "

The 1st year . As 4 per bega.
 " 2nd " ... " 8 " "
 " 3rd " ... " 12 " "

And the Talookdar's teshkees with the Company to be settled agreeable to the produce of this jumma-bundee. If responsible people are encouraged from these terms to collect ryotts and come and settle on the lands, a very large increase of revenues may be expected to accrue to the Company in the course of a few years for I understand that the most of the Purgunnas are in the same situation, and I intend to make the same publication in them as I advance.

In the meantime, as I observe by the complaints of the ryotts, that a much greater number in proportion are settled upon the Talookdar's lands. I imagine they may be able to cultivate more than what they at present hold pottahs for. I have, therefore, issued a perwanna offering them pottahs on the above terms whatever they will cultivate of the waste lands, over and above their stated leases. By this method we may expect some little advantage, until there is time for persons to offer and accept of talook.

No 65

TO WILLIAM ALDRSEY, ESQ

Secretary to the Council of Fort William

TIRUACHOUR

14th April 1766

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 7th instant, but I am not acquainted of any Europeans not in the Company's Service residing within the Districts of the Midnapore Residency. The gentleman, who assists me in my private business, is of European parents, but born in Bengal. I do not suppose, therefore, that he is comprehended in the order of Council. If I understand that he is, I shall demand from him such an account as is required on my return to the Factory.

During the time of my Secretaryship I received into my hands a sum of money, for the tonnage, etc., of vessels that had passes granted them by the President and Council, but the multiplicity of business whilst in office, and the constant shifting of my situation since, put it totally out of my power till now to make up an account of it. I beg, Sir, you will represent this circumstance to the President and Council, and obtain their order for receiving into the Treasury C Rs 5,485.... which you will find to be the amount as per accompanying Statement. Having obtained this order from the Board, the enclosed bill for the money upon my attorney Mr Lawrell, will be honoured with immediate payment.

I am, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 66

TO HARRY VERELST, ESQ ETC ETC

BEERCOOL

19th April 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your letter of the 14th instant, and I shall observe it as a rule in future to forward my monthly account to the Presidency by the

15th of month ensuing. They would have been so transmitted this month, had not my absence from the Factory occasion'd some unavoidable delay; and should the same reason prevent their being dispat h'd so early as they ought to be in future, I hope it will be excus'd, after that there will be nothing to obstruct a due observance of your order.

The Treasury and Cash accounts, together with those of charges collection, charges general, etc., for the month of March are now forwarded, as also two Bills of Exchange on the Paymaster-General, one drawn by me for C. Rs 6497-10 8 being the amount of the military disbursements in March and one drawn by Captain De Glos Surveyor for C. Rs 1110 .. account the Expenses of his Survey

Since the commencement of the New Regulations, I have agreeable to the desire of the Paymaster-General, granted a bill upon you monthly in his favor for the amount of reckonings due to the troops station'd at Midnapore. This monthly Draft I am to request, may be honour'd with acceptance whenever it appears, and the amount shall be duly notified at the time I transmit the accounts. The one for March was C. Rs 394-5

The above mention'd accounts for March being drawn out after a new Form w^{ch} particularizes the bitta by which the Rup 4s actually received are converted into Allah Secca and Calcutta Currency. I shall be glad to know whether it meets with your approbation. Heretofore an imaginary bitta of 22 per cent was made use of to convert the Allah Secca into current Rupees; but as that calculation will seldom fail to produce a false amount of current Rupees when compared with the Company's establish'd bitta on the different species I was led to adopt the method which is now before you on taking charge of the Residency

I am with respect,
Gentlemen, etc, etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 67

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA

23rd April 1766.

SIR,

The Board have delivered to us your letters of the 6th and 11th instant, directing me to reply thereto and at the same time enclose you copy of their resolutions on the former and the remarks which it enclosed which you will receive herewith. I must inform you that the circumstances relative to the Bulrampore land were, as represented from the Gentlemen at Bardwan and Midnapore taken at large into consideration before the Board came to any decision. That actual losses would be sustained in the Burdwan Province on account of that band far exceeding any advantage it could be of to the Midnapore revenues has already been proved. The former's claims for their losses on account of the overflowings last season as well this on this very account, the justice of which they have in the clearest manner established, are too well known to need any repetition at this time, and from the information I have received from Bardwan should the Bulrampore band be again repaired, a total desertion of the inhabitants of that

part of the country must immediately ensue. However, for our mutual satisfaction, I have directed Mr. Plaiside and Mr. Dagloss to survey that, as well as the creek at Mundar Gatcha, and give me their opinions thereon; when should it appear that bounds for both countries can be made in an advantageous manner to secure the lands of each Province, a proper attention shall be paid thereto.

Every measure must be pursued to encourage the cultivation of the waste lands. The dividing them into tullels, & provided responsible persons can be procured for them, I have ever been of opinion, is the most probable one for success and ever since my return from Midnapore have endeavoured to induce persons of property and credit to engage for the cultivation of them, but hitherto without success. However, I shall not cease in my endeavours to engage them. The terms you have published I hope have already met with some success, and with the permission of the Board, shall make known the same here.

The country must have considerably suffered for want of rain it is a complaint from every part and what we have it not in our power to remedy.

The revenues of this country are liable to rise and fall, to adjust which the Government should ever particularly attend to the just valuation of the lands. The intent of the circuit you are now on is principally to attain to a certain knowledge of that valuation, in order that whenever an addition to the revenue is made, it shall only be where as on an equitable enquiry it is found to be not oppressive to the ryotts. The abstract of the expence of the Midnapore Factory is duly arrived me.

I am etc,
H VERFLST

No 68

TO W B SUMNER ESQ ETC MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCE OF TRADE AT
FORT WILLIAM

DARTOON
25th April 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your letters of the 2nd and 19th instant. In consequence of the letter, the Agent of Messrs Stibbert¹ and Hare have deliver'd over to me the Lamprie collarees and people on my part are now employ'd in receiving the Salt which is ready. As Messrs Stibbert and Hare had put a stop to the boiling some time before I received your Order, by the time it arrived I found almost all the Molungees had gone and engaged themselves at the work in the Moratta Districts. I have now employ'd people to bring them back and renew the boiling, but as it will be attended with a good deal of trouble and petty charges I would beg leave to propose the delivering the whole of produce of these collarees to the Society at Calcutta on the same terms with the salt produc'd at Beer cool instead of receiving what is now ready and working the remainder of the season on account of the Society. If this proposal is agreeable to you, I shall receive the little profit which occurs as compensation for my trouble and the Committee will be reliev'd from the perplexity and inconvenience of adjusting accounts with gomastahs.

¹ Genl G Stibbert

The beparees who were at Busta, came thither by some roads which lye thro' the jungles to the Westward of this province, Burdwan, etc, of which I am unable to obtain any exact account. If the Morattas furnish them with salt they will return by the same route. However I am endeavouring to engage them either to come and purchase at Anundpore or to quit the country

I am, Gentlemen, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 69

To WILLIAM ALDERSEY, Esq, *Secretary, Etc*

MIDNAPORE

1st May 1766

I now transmit you from my Assistant Mr Hampton a description of the nature required in your letter of the 7th ultimo The particulars thereof will, I hope, be deemed Sicca into Current Rupees, but as that calculation will seldom fail to produce a false amount of Current Rupees, when compared with the Company's establish'd batta on the different species, I was led to adopt the method which is now before you on taking charge of the Residency.

I am with respect,

Gentlemen, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

ENCLOSURE

To JOHN GRAHAM, Esq

MIDNAPORE

1st May 1766

SIR,

In consequence of your communicating to me the resolution of the President and Council of the 3rd March, I must now inform you that I was born in Bengal and went to England for Education That I came out in the year 1740 a Writer in the Hon'ble Company's Service for Bencoolen, at which place I continued till the beginning of the year 1760, when not having a good state of health, I desired permission to resign the service and repair to this place my native country This my request was granted, by the then Governor and Council of Fort Marlbro', and I took my passage on a Snow Commanded by Captain Dunn, but before we could get off the Coast, we had the misfortune to be taken by the two French ships, which afterwards took all the Company's settlements on the west Coast of Sumatra By those two misfortunes, I lost all the small Fortune I had attain'd in my long service, which has reduced me to the necessity of gaining a subsistence through the favor of the Gentlemen of this place

I am with due respect,

Sir,

Your most and humble Servant,

(Sd) CHA. HAMPTON

No 70

To W B SUMNER ESQ ETC, GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT
FORT WILLIAMMIDNAPUR
10th May 1766

GENTLEMEN

I have been favour d with your letter of the 28th ultimo and I am glad to find that method which I have adopted for stating the monthly accounts meets with your approbation In consequence thereof the accounts for April which are now forwarded are made out upon the same plan and it shall always be observ d in future

I further transmit you herewith the following Bills of Exchange

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | My Bills Pay Master upon the Mily Payr Genl for the amount Military Disbursements of the month of April | C Rs 7 304 13 6 |
| 2 | Captain De Glosss Bill upon Do for the Expences of his Survey | 1 665 0 0 |
| 3 | My private Bill upon Mr James Lawrell whch on presentment will be duly dis charg d for Son Rs 20 000 | 22 200 0 0 |

In all C Rs 31 169 13 6

And I am likewise to advise that I have drawn on you under date the 1st for C Rs 384 5 4 in favour of the Pay Master General being the amount of Off Reckonings due to the Troops stationed at this factory for the Month of April

I am with respect, etc etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 71

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM at Midnapoor

(COMMITTEE OF TRADE)
FORT WILLIAM
May 18th, 1766
(Answered 19th 1766)

Sir

We are now to acquaint you that we have fixed on the undermen
tioned markets for exporting the following quantity of Salt to viz —

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Nabob Gungo | 2 00 000 |
| Carragolah | 2 00 000 |
| Jamollgungo near Rungpoor | 2 00 000 |
| Sondean near Disagepoor | 2 00 000 |
| Patna | 4 00 000 |
| Durbunga | 1 00 000 |
| Chilmaree | 1 00 000 |
| Rajal Barry | 3 00 000 |
| Kanabubong | 2 00 000 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Calcutta | ... | .. | ... | 3,00,000 |
| Anundpoor | -- | .. | ... | 80,000 |
| Gattaul and Kunchnagur | | | .. | 2,00,000 |
| Gnalparah | .. | ... | | 1,00,000 |

In order that every country merchant may have an equal share of this trade, after the salt has been landed at the foregoing markets, we have agreed to exclude all Europeans, and receive proposals from the country merchants only for the sale of the same to be delivered at the abovementioned places. The proposals are to be given into our Agents or to the Chief and Council of any of the Company's Factories, who have our directions for forwarding the same to us for our consideration.

We request that you will have publication made at your Factory that the country merchants may be acquainted with our resolution. At the same time you will please to have mentioned that it is our intention not to send up a larger quantity of salt than we have fixed on for the different markets nor any more till the next season, and we expect to receive payment from the persons whose proposals we accept as the salt is weighed off to them.

Any proposals that are given into you we desire you will forward to us.

We are etc.,

H VERELST
RANDH MARRIOTT

No 59

TO W B SUMMER ESQ, ETC, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF
TRADE AT FORT WILLIAM.

Members of the Committee of Trade at Fort William

MIDNAPORE

22nd May 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I am favor'd with your letters of the 3rd and 15th Instant. In consequence of your acceptance of my offer for the produce of the Lamprie Colarees, I have accounted with the last proprietors for the advance which they had made, and am now continuing the boiling.

Immediately on receipt of your letter of the 3rd, I transmitted the intimation which you desired to the *heparoes in the Moratti Districts*, and I have now issued the publication directed in yr. list. If in consequence thereof, any proposals are offer'd to me I shall take care to forward them.

In pursuance of your former orders, I have effected sales at Anundpoor of about 15 000 Maunds of salt at the price which you stipulated (C Rs 2 Per Maund) and it is now weighing off. I should be glad to know whether I am to continue selling at that rate, or to suspend my sales until we see the effect of this publication for proposals. As I shall have a call for some money here to discharge the hire of the salt from the colarees to Anundpoor, and to carry on my business at Lamprie, I request your permission to supply myself out of the Anundpoor sales, and grant drafts for the same in your favor on my attorneys in Calcutta.

In addition to the servants which I formerly advised you to have employ'd at Anundpore, the business had required my entertaining four more weighmen and a Podar, which I hope you will not disapprove. The former are to receive each $4\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees monthly wages—the latter 5 Rupees

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 72

To W B SUMNER, Esq, & GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM,
MIDNAPORE
25th May 1766.

GENTLEMEN,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 10th Instant

Amongst the orders sent to this Factory previous to my appointment I meet with the two following. The first under date the 21 January 1765, wherein the Resident is directed to keep two sets of books, the one to include accounts of the revenues and the other the accounts of the Investment Expences of the Factory, etc. The second under date the 24th October accompanying an Extract of the General Letter for the *Grenville*, wherein it is directed that two copies of the Books of the Factory shall be sent annually to the Presidency to be forwarded with the General books from thence to England

That the omission of executing these orders may not be attributed to any neglect of mine, I must now take the liberty to acquaint you that I have not found any books at the Factory whereupon to proceed, Three different sets have at different times been open'd, but none of them have been completed or indeed near finish'd. I propose now, however, with your approbation, to open two sets for the present year upon the above directed plan and I shall take care to have them completed so as to be transmitted to Europe with the books of the Presidency by the Jan'y ship. I shall pay due attention in the course of this business to the directions contain'd in the Sub-Accomptant's Letter of the 16th December 1764 but for my further assistance I must request your determination on the following particulars

First, whether all the old ballances now charged to the several purgans are to be brought forward in the new books? This querie is made in reference to some directions which have been sent me by the Select Committee, and which Mr Verelst will be kind enough to take the trouble to explain to you

Secondly, Whether the ballance of Midnapore Fort and Building is to be brought upon the new books agreeable to the Statement deliver'd to me by Mr Watts, when I took charge of the Factory, which only includes the expence from Novr. 1763, and whether you will order a complete account to be made up and sent me from Calcutta?

Thirdly, Whether you approve that the advances directed to be made from the one sett of books to the other should be enter'd under the Heads *Revenue Books* and *Factory Books*, or what heads you would choose to have open'd for those transfers?

Fourthly, Whether the Military Disbursement are to be esteemed a charge upon the Revenues of the Factory, and, of consequence, into which Books their amount is to be brought?

Fifthly, By what rule or standard I am to ascertain the amount of the teshkees of each Purga at the beginning of the year in Current Rupees, the Teshkees being always adjusted in Allah Siccas? The method lately adopted for converting the Rupees actually received into Allah Siccas and Calcutta Currency, having met with your approbation, is in future to be continued, but then, this depending entirely upon the receipts, it is impossible to pronounce beforehand a certain produce in either species. To remedy this inconvenience I would humbly propose, if you approve it, that such a batta, as you shall think proper, shall be established upon the Allah Siccas agreeably to which the amount of the teshkees to be debited in Current Rupees whilst the receipts shall continue to be entered according to the method at present followed. Any difference then arising in Allah Siccas at the end of the year will be a balance actually due from the Country, whilst the difference w^{ch} may arise in the Current Rupees will be a Profit or Loss to the Company and must be adjusted accordingly by that account.

The necessary work having already been long delayed I beg I may be favor'd with your answer as soon as possible

I am, with respect,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

—
No 70

MR JOHN GRAHAM, RESIDENT AT MIDNAPUR

(GENL. LETTER)

FORT WILLIAM

22nd May, 1766

(Recd 25th May, 1766)

SIR

The Nabob Nazim al Dowla having departed this life on 8th instant, after a short indisposition, his brother Syf o Dowla has succeeded him in the Subahdarce and was seated on the Musnud on the 19th. He has been already proclaimed here and you will cause the same to be done at your Factory, for which purpose the form of a Proclamation comes enclosed

We are, Sir,

Your Loving Friends

WM B SUMNER.

H VERELST

RANDH MARBIOTT

HUGH WATTS

WM ALDERSEY

CLAUD RUSSELL.

THOS KELSALL

CHARLES FLOYER

A Proclamation

We the President and Council of Fort William for the Management of the Affairs of the United East India Company, and on their part acting in the Dewannees in behalf of the King Shah Allum for the Provinces of Bengal Behar and Orissa, do acknowledge and declare our good Friend and Ally, Syf O Dowla to have been regularly invested in the Subudarry of the Provinces, and in which we will assist and support him to the utmost of our power also we do hereby require and command all persons within or belonging to the Government under our jurisdiction, and we do desire all persons our friends and allies to acknowledge the said Syf O Dowla in his Right and Title of Subah of the said Provinces

(Recd 25th May Procl'd 27th)

No 71

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA

29th May, 1766

SIR,

I have just received your letter of yesterday's date, the Board have as yet taken no notice of Mr Hampton's residence with I shall be very willing to assist that gentleman in anything that may offer

The great drought of this season has certainly given reasonable cause for the Zemindar's complaints I have received many of the kind from Burdwan. In short the grievances has been general The answer you have given to them is extremely proper You will soon to be able to judge how far their distress may require relief, and should you find their sufferings so great as absolutely to disable them from complying with their revenues, you will please to make an estimate from the best information you can procure of what may be thought in equitable indulgence on this occasion which shall be properly represented so that in future no blame can fall on you for such deficiencies

The extreme hurry of business we have been in has prevented my taking the opinion of the Gentlemen with regard to a husband but it shall be done if possible the next meeting, when I will advise you particularly

The sentiments of the Committee which I wrote you under date the 17th March last in regard to the old balances only related to such as were irrecoverable The proposals you make of keeping them apart from your new books is in my opinion from the reasons you give the most eligible method The writing of these compleat sets of books will take up more of your time than I think you can afford to spare They had better be all prepared under your inspection at Midnapore I shall therefore apply to the Board for an allowance for a writer for this purpose

The deduction demanded for the Resident's commission paid to Mr Watts in the months of October and November is certainly just and reasonable and which I think, may with propriety be admitted in the charges collection

I flatter myself I shall be able for the next season to procure you many people to undertake the cultivation of the waste lands at least I have at present several promises

The Board being fully resolved to accept all commissions tendered by the officers, and as those gentlemen with you have concurred in the determination of resigning the service, I will endeavour to get others appointed in their stead as soon as possible. If there are any particular gentlemen among the officers who have not tendered their commissions on this occasion or amongst such as may be soon here you prefer, please to let me know

I am extremely glad to find by the statement you have forwarded of the revenues that they are so well paid up which I think must fully answer every expectation

The Minah Chunah¹ Rajah frequently requested permission to pay his rents in Calcutta, as it will tend considerably to his convenience. If no particular inconveniences arise, these indulgences, I think, may be admitted to such as have behaved well in the regular payments of their rents, and you may receive his bills payable to the President and Council

I am, etc,

H VERELST

No 74

TO W B SUMNER ESQ, AND GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE:

1st June 1766.

GENTLEMEN,

I was in due course favor'd with your Letter of the 22nd May and in consequence thereof the Proclamation of the Nabob Syf O Dowla was publicly read at this Factory

As I shall have a Dispatch of Cloth ready to send to Calcutta in a few days hence, I request that two Mutwas may be ordered down to Gongacolly to receive it

I am with due Respect

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

No 75

TO W B SUMNER, ESQ, AND GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL

MIDNAPORE

5th June 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I was in due course favoured with your letter of the 22nd May, and in consequence thereof the proclamation of the Nabob Syf O Dowla² was publicly read at this Factory.

¹ Mayanachar Price ² Saifu-d-daulah It may be noted that the Persian correspondence Jan — 9th Dec 1766 is missing See Calendar Vol I, p 450

As I shall have a despatch of cloth ready to send to Calcutta in a few days hence, I request that two mutwas may be ordered down to Gongacolly to receive it

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 76

To W B SUMNER, ESQ., MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE
9th June 1766

GENTLEMEN,

Having sold to the end of last month to the amount of 21,000 Mds of Salt at the Society's golahs at Anundpore, I have now the pleasure to transmit you the following accounts —

- 1 Charges building golahs for the reception of 80,003 Mds of Salt
- 2 Charges March
- 3 Account receipt of Salt to the 31st of May
4. Account Sales of do to do
- 5 Cash account of the Society for March 1766

All the accounts, I hope, will upon inspection, be found right and and receive your approbation

I am favor'd with your letter of the 28th ulto and, agreeably to your desire, I shall continue my sales at Anundpore After repeated endeavours, I have at length prevail'd upon one of the up-country beparees to come down to the golahs, and I expect that he will take off in a few days to the amount of 10 000 Mds

I am much obliged by the permission you have given me for taking up what sums I may want to carry on my own business out of your cash. In consequence thereof, I have drawn a supply in the month of May of Currnt Rupees 35,100 for which I now engage you a bill upon Mr Lawrell, payable at five days' sight The ballance of your cash shall be remitted, either when fresh opportunities offer of drawing or in species, as you may think proper to direct

I am, Gentlemen, etc, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 77

To W B SUMNER, ESQ., ETC, GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE
12th June 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 2nd instant, and the instructions therein contain'd, regarding the books to be open'd at this factory, shall be duly observ'd I have received from the Sub-Accountant the account which you directed him to transmit me, and I will take the

liberty to correspond with that Gentleman for whatever further information I may stand in need of

Enclosed I forward to you the Accounts of the Factory for the month of May together with two Bills of Exchange, ^{rs}, one drawn by me upon the Military Paymaster General for 6,100 C Rs ^{rs}, and one drawn by Captain De Gloss¹ on do for C Rs 1,110

I am with due Respect, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 78

TO W B SUMNER, Esq, GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM.

MIDNAPORE

15th June 1766

GENTLEMEN,

Under escort of one Naick and six Sepoys, I now dispatch to Gongacolly eight sheets of Treasure and sixty bales of piece-goods to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta, the Invoices thereof shall be transmitted by the Dawks

I am with due respect

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 79

TO W. B. SUMNER Esq, AND GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE

15th June 1766

GENTLEMEN

This serves to enclose to you the invoices of eight chests treasure and sixty bales piece-goods dispatch'd this day to Gongacolly, to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta The invoice of the Treasure amounts to Sica weight 50 000—and that of the piece goods to A Rs 14 108-11 9

I have received your favour of the 9th advising of your having station'd two Mutwas constantly at Gongacolly for the service of this Factory

I am with due respect, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 80

TO MR JAMES LAWRELL,

Secretary to the Committee of Trade at Fort William

MIDNAPORE

15th June 1766

SIR,

I am favor'd with your letter of the 12th instant Immediately on receipt thereof, I dispatched orders to Anundpore to stop the sales of the

¹ Louis de Gloss See an art by W K Firminger 'a Pioneer of the Survey' *The Statesman* April 16th 1911

Society's salt, and this morning I received advice from the Gomastah that he had accordingly done so. He acquaints me, however, that prior to the arrival of these orders, he had settled contracts with the beparees for the disposal of upwards of 25,000 Mds, thereof had been weighed off deliver'd to them, the remainder he has, by my directions, stop in the golabs, until I can receive the orders of the Committee, which you will, therefore, please to obtain for me without loss of time.

I must desire you will inform the Committee that amongst the number who have not received their salt is the beparee Babooram Noyk. This is the man who I advised them in my letter of the 9th instant. I had taken such pains to engage down to the golabs, and as for a further mark of encouragement, his contract of 90 001 Mds was settled in my preference. I hope the Committee will not object to its being fulfilled.

Enclos'd I transmit you a draft on Mr James Winsley for C Rs 5 400 which amount I have drawn here from the ballance of the Society's Cash for May.

I am, etc.,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 81

TO W B SUMNER, ESQ, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL AT FORT
WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE
17th June 1769

GENTLEMEN,

This serves to accompany the account of this Factory for the month of June together with two Bills of exchange upon the Paymaster General, one drawn by Captain De Gloss for C Rs 1,665—and one drawn by me for C Rs 6 950

I am with due respect, etc.,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 82

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM

CALCUTTA
22nd June 1766

SIR,

Your favor of the 20th instant is just arrived. Your former letter regarding the Moyna Chaura Rajah* came to hand when I was much engaged in business and being taken with a fit of illness immediately after, which still continues on me, was the occasion of my not replying it. The reason you gave me for his not paying his revenues in Calcutta were so satisfactory that I ordered his people to be told his request could not be complied with. The reason he assigned to me for his request was

* Vide Letter No. 73

No 84

To W B SUMNER, Esq, AND GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE

22nd July 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I am favor'd with your Letter of the 14th instant The list of investment and the extract from the Hon'ble Company's Separate Letter, which were enclos'd therein, shall be strictly attended to

I am also favor'd with a letter from the Secretary, of the 16th transmitting me, by your order, a copy of the 66th Para of the General Letter, dated the 24th December 1765, wherein my Hon'ble employers have been pleased to take a very favourable notice of my endeavours in the Office of Secretary Permit me through the channel of your Board to express the grateful sense which I entertain of this fresh mark of their approbation and favor, and to offer the assurance that, whatever trust in their service the Hon'ble the President and Council may think proper to repose in me shall always be discharged as far as may be in my power with diligence and fidelity

The Bungaloes which were built at this Place by Mr Parker Hatley, I imagine, must have cost at least 4000 rupees In their present state however, I do not esteem them worth more than 2000 rupees although it is necessary to observe that during these seven months past they have been employ'd for the Company's Service in the quality of a cottah apartment for the Surgeon, etc

I am with due respect

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 85

To W B SUMNER, Esq, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE AT FORT WILLIAM,

MIDNAPORE

25th July 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your favor of the 15th of July as also two from your Secretary, dated the 12th In consequence thereof I have order'd the Salt which is at Anundpore golahs to be deliver'd to Suberam the Gomasta of Cossinaut etc Merchants and the Zemindars of the contract shall in like manner be deliver'd as it arrives from the collarees, but as it can only be brought to the golahs by Land Carriage, the rains must abate a little before I can possibly transport it

As I find I shall not be able to succeed in procuring Bills for the whole ballance of your Cash, I yesterday dispatch'd from Anundpore four Cheats of Treasure containing Rs. 10 500 and 2 000 or O Rs 24 880—to be forwarded by boat from Guttaul to Calcutta The Invoice shall be

to the Society of Trade. A good deal of inconvenience will necessarily attend the delay of receiving dusticks from Calcutta, for these purposes, especially in the Dispatches of Salt, however, I submit entirely to your Lordship &c's determination, the propriety of my being so far vested with this privilege, and I shall strictly adhere to the orders, which you may think proper to give—I am with all due respect, etc

No. 88.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC.

MIDNAPUR.
10th August 1766.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Under the escort of Hubeeb Cawn, Havildar, and six sepoys, I now dispatch to your Lordship, etc, eight chests of Treasure. The Invoice thereof shall be forwarded by the dawks.

I am, with respect, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 89.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC.

MIDNAPUR.
17th August 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

This serves to give cover to an Invoice of eight chests Treasure, which I dispatched from hence to your Lordship and Council, on the 10th instant

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 90

TO W. B SUMNER, ESQ, ETC., MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE AT
FORT WILLIAM.

MIDNAPUR.
17th August 1766

GENTLEMEN,

I have rece'd your favor of the 11th instant, and in consequence thereof, I have published at this Factory that you are ready to receive proposals for contracting for the ensuing year's salt to be made in this Province I have not yet been able to adjust with the Zemindar and Molungees the accounts of the last year's boiling, but, so soon as I have, I shall take the liberty to transmit you such conditions as I may find it in my power to offer for carrying on the business in the ensuing season

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM.]

No 91

To W. B SUMNER, Esq, etc, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE,

MIDNAPORE

22nd August 1766.

GENTLEMEN,

Since my letter of the 17th Instant, have been employ'd in adjusting the accounts of last year's salt boiling I am sorry to find it is not in my power to tender you more reasonable terms than those of last contract for carrying on the salt business of this Province in the ensuing season. The contracting prices with the Zemindars and Molungees are so much enhanced by the heavy expence of land carriage from the collarees to Anundpore galahs, the boat hire from Beercool, etc, to Calcutta, and the precariousness of that passage, as to leave, I may safely say, but a very moderate equivalent for the trouble and risk of the Contractor with the Society. On the same terms, however, I am willing to undertake the business of the ensuing year, and agreeably thereto to deliver as follows,

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| at Anundpore Galahs | ... | 70,000 Mds |
| at Calcutta from Beercool, Balsai etc | 1,30,000 | |
| from Lamprie Collarees | 20,000 | 1,50,000 |

In all ... 2,20,000 Mds

As the terms I refer to have been already specified at large in the extract of last season I apprehend it is unnecessary for me to be more particular here, I shall be glad, however, how soon I can receive your determination as the season approaches for advancing to the Molungees, and those of Lamprie collarees will be apt to go away, and engage themselves in the Moratta Grounds, if not entertain'd

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 92

To HUGH WATTS, Esq

MIDNAPORE

25th August 1766

SIR,

I have rece'd your favor of the 21st Instant, and in consequence thereof I now transmit you an abstract of the annual Expence of this Factory for two years compleat, also of the expence of that part of the present year which is elaps'd and which you may compleat into another Year's Abstract by adding 3 months' expence at the rate of C Rs 1,800 per Month, which I am certain it will not exceed

You, of your own knowledge Sir, can acquaint his Lordship that there are no accounts remaining at the Factory of an older date than November 1763, and that it was therefore impossible for me to trace the expences further back. I have purposely omitted to state the expence of Garrison Stores because I could not render it perfect. The damaged stores sold during the Chiefship of Mr Beatmont and yourself, exceeds considerably the cost of what were laid in during that period, and I had

no older accounts to instruct me in what was the Original Stock of the Store-house

If this abstract should appear in any respect imperfect I shall be ready to rectify it in such manner as you may instruct me

I am etc.,
[JOHN GRHAM]

No 03

AN ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL EXPENSE AT MIDNAPUR FACTORY

From November 1763 to October 1764 inclusive

CHARGES MIDNAPUR FACTORY —

Rs. A P

This Head contains all the charges of the Factory for these 12 months the charges of the collections excepted, and comprehends the Workmen's wages employed in tending the Fort the cost of materials Petty Charges etc The amount as collected from the Monthly account, is

669 736 11 3

CHUNAM AND TAGOREE DADNEY —

The amount of the advances for these articles collected also from the monthly accounts

12 091 2 9

81827 16 0

From November 1764 to October 1765 inclusive

PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO THE COVENANT SERVANTS —

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| | Rs. A P |
| Mr Watts Way Charges from Calcutta | 540 0 0 |
| " Fenwick's " do | 108 0 0 |
| " Hatley's " to Calcutta | 108 0 0 |

756 0 0

CHARGES MIDNAPUR FACTORY —

Comprehending the expenses recited above

33 902 0 3

CHARGES GENERAL —

This forms a separate Head from May 1765 and the amount is

6026 6 6

39228 6 9

40684 6 9

A B — In this year's account the Expenses of Tagoree and Chunam is included under the foregoing Heads

From November 1765 to July 1766 inclusive

PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO THE COVENANT SERVANTS —

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Mr Watts Way Charges to Calcutta | 540 0 0 |
| Fenwick's do | 108 0 0 |
| Graham's from Calcutta | 540 0 0 |

1188 0 0

CHARGES MIDNAPUR FACTORY —

Comprehends as in the preceding year and amounts to

17 798 15 0

CHARGES GENERAL —

Do do.

8 455 3 9

26254 2 9

27442 2-9

Current Rupees

149954 7 6

No 94

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE &C, &C

MIDNAPORE

31st August 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Under Escort of a Havildar and six Seapoys, I now dispatch to your Lordship, etc, the Company's two Mutwas laden with sixteen chests of Treasure and nineteen bales of piece goods

I am etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM.]

No 95

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, &C, &C

MIDNAPORE

1st September 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN

Enclosed I transmit you an invoice of Treasure (Rs 100 000) and another of piece-goods, dispatch'd from hence yesterday to be laden on the Company's Mutwas at Pertabpore, and proceed to Calcutta. I further enclose you two Bills of Exchange one drawn by me upon the Paymaster-General for C Rs 655, and one drawn by a Merchant here for Sont Rs 4,000 upon the house of Manick Holdar and Ram Holdar

I have duly rece'd your Lordship etc commands of the 11th and 10th ulto in consequence of the former I shall make application to the President for whatever duties may be wanted at this Factory and the supplemental Directions relative to the investment shall be complied with as far as the possibility of procuring dies will admit

I am etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM.]

No 96

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, &C, &C

MIDNAPORE

27th September 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN

I have the honor to transmit you herewith the accounts of this Factory for the month of August This being the last month of the Orissa year, the necessary adjustment with the zemindars, without which the Treasury account could not be closed, is the reason to be assign'd for the delay in forwarding those accounts beyond the time appointed by your Lordship, etc, orders

I have likewise the honor to transmit you an invoice of nine chests of Treasure dispatch'd from hence the 20th instant to be laden on the Company's Mutwas at Gongacolly This dispatch compleats the sum of

Rupees 600,000 remitted to your Lordship, etc, in the course of this year, exclusive of the advances made for the investment, and all the expenses of the Factory, Civil and Military.

I beg leave to represent to your Lordship and Council the great want of a magazine in the Fort of Midnapore. A considerable quantity of Stores is laid up there are at present no better secured, than by being lodged in an old Tomb, which I hardly believe to be proof against a common rocket, and is moreover by overtopping the walls of the Fort exposed to every attempt of an enemy. If your Lordship, etc, should approve of having a magazine built, you may depend on its being executed with the strictest economy. Indeed from the cheapness of bricks here it can hardly be said to incur a farther expence than the workmen's labor and the cost of Channam.

I am, etc, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 97.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC,

President and Gentlemen of the Select Committee at Fort William

CALCUTTA

3rd October 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 15th September, and with it a copy of the Hon'ble Comp'y's Instructions contained in the 43rd Para of their Genl Letter, dated the 24th December 1765. By these orders I find a call is made upon me, in consequence of the appointment I held at Burdwan about five years ago, to refund the allowances which I then rec'd in that Station. But, as I cannot help esteeming my case in some circumstances different from that of the other Gentlemen, which my Hon'ble Masters may not perhaps have been acquainted with at the time they were pleased to issue those orders, I flatter myself I shall not be thought to presume in embracing this opportunity representing it to your Lordship, etc

From the tenor of the Hon'ble Company's Directions, it would appear that they understand the allowances in question to have been made in the light of gratifications to their servants, on account of their private expenses alone. But I must beg leave to observe that whatever footing these allowances might have been put upon after my time, the plan upon which they were originally regulated was very different.

When Mr Sumner was deputed by the Board to settle the Burdwan Province, after a scene of great labor and application wherein he had all the backwardness of the Raja, the discontent of his troops, and the chicanery of his Mutiseddies to combat with and overcome, he (Mr Sumner) obtained for the Company the very advantageous Revenue of 32 50,000 Rs. Rupees, altho' this was only our first year of possession. Not satisfied, however himself with this adjustment he was determined to free the Company from all attendant Expenses and to realize the aforementioned sum to them as a clear Revenue. With this view, therefore, he made additional

No 99

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM.

CALCUTTA,

*The 14th October 1766**(Received 14th, 1766)*

SIR,

Your letter of the 30th ultimo, accompanying a general account current of the revenues of Midnapore and Jallagore Provinces with a list of the balances of last year, I have laid before the Select Committee, and have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been entirely approved

I am directed by the Committee to particularly recommend to you the annual circuit of Midnapore and Jallagore Provinces and they are determined the same shall be adopted by every succeeding Resident. Such balances as are irrecoverable must be wrote off, and to prevent the revenues of those Provinces in general falling short of what they were estimated at last year, they will desire that you will increase on such lands as are most capable of bearing the same a sum equal to what it would be necessary to decrease the others. The teshees in future they would have made in Sicca Rupees. You will, therefore, in the adjustment of the present year, give a proper attention to the difference between the Allah and Sicca Rupees, that the Company by this alteration may be no sufferers

All the Cooshnascen lands for which sunnuds or ample proof cannot be produced are to be immediately reserved to the public Revenue. I must, therefore, recommend an early and strict examination into the same, that the Company may reap the benefit of such as are held by undue authority

The King, by his treaty with us, has engaged not to grant any sunnuds to the detriment of the revenues. You are, therefore, not to suffer any regard to be paid to the one for the Canoongo's office mentioned in your letter, and, to remove the apprehension of the present Canoongo you will please to advise him that the Committee approve his continuing his office

The Committee have also approved the allowance of 5000 rupees a year which you recommend for the expence of writers employed under the Canoongo at Midnapore and Pergunnah cutcherries, but if the business can be equally well conducted at a less expence they recommend your reducing the same as much as possible

The Committee will give the most positive orders to the Court of Cutcherry here never to interfere in any disputes where the riots of Midnapore may be concerned and will direct the one regarding the Comjurah Rajah to be dismissed that Court

I am, etc.,

H. VERNELST

No 100.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC

MIDNAPORE :

7th November 1766

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 20th ulto, and the Export Warehouse keeper's remarks which accompanied it shall be carefully attended to. The Sannoes of the dispatches which have fall'n under his observation were part of the provision of last year. Those of the present year now providing will be found, when receiv'd, to be entirely free of conjee.

Agreeably to the proposal which met with your approbation, I have increas'd this year's order of investment in almost every article. A compleat list of the whole that is now providing is here enclos'd for your Lordship, etc's observation, and the delivery of the whole at Calcutta, I hope, may be concluded by the first week in March.

In consequence of your permission, I shall proceed in building a magazine in the Fort, and, as soon as possible, I will forward to your Lordship, etc, an estimate of the expense it will incur.

The accounts of this Factory for the month of October are herewith transmitted, as also a Bill of Exchange drawn by me upon the Pay-General for C Rs 6,900.

I am, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 101.

TO ALEX CAMPBELL, ESQ,

Secy to the Select Committee at Fort William

MIDNAPORE

7th November 1766.

SIR,

After the intimation which Lord Clive imparted to me, when I had the honour to attend the Select Committee in person, I apprehend the enclosed penalty bond obliging myself to abide by the ultimate determination of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, will be esteem'd and received as a final answer, to their order of the 24th of December 1765, and I am to request therefore that you will take the trouble of presenting it.

The amount of the allowances paid by the Burdwan Rajah during the time of my residency at that Factory appears by the publick Cash Accounts to be Rupees 27,076 . . . out of which I disburs'd the allowance to the Commanding Officer, and wages to bamans also appears by the publick Cash Accounts Rs 14,076

I disbursed further the Pay to Cutcherry servants to their expenses of

To explain this statement still further it is necessary I should remark to you that my appointment to succeed Mr Sumner was made in Council, the 7th of September 1761 Mr. Johnstone was app'd the 10th of April following, and rec'd charge of the Factory the beginning of May and so that the space of eight Months was the time from which I received the publick allowances

the Factory, as set forth in my Letter of the 3rd ultimo, and of which I can furnish the particulars if required.
5,600 10,676 the

Residua Rupees 7,100 is the sum which I have now transmitted you my Penalty Bond.

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 102

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC.

MIDNAPORE :
12th December 1776.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to transmit you herewith the accounts of this Factory for the month of November, together with two Bills of Exchange, one drawn upon Messrs Lawrell and Graham for C. Rs 28,000, and one drawn upon the Mily. Paymaster for C. Rs. 5,500.

I am, etc.,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 103

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM, Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM •
The 31st December 1766
(Received 9th Jan. 1767.)

SIR,

On the 5th day of October 1765, the Select Committee issued orders, that no Civil or Military servants of the Company, their banyans or dependents, etc, should after that date lend money upon lease, mortgage, or otherwise to the zemindars and other officers of the Government, without the knowledge and consent of Muhamed Reza Cawn and Ministers

It is with concern we now understand that the order has been disregarded to the great prejudice of the Revenue and injury of the Company. We, therefore, direct that you will make strict inquiry who are the transgressors, and transmit to us the names of all such as have lent money without obtaining the approbation of the Ministers contrary to the injunctions of the Select Committee

At the same time it is our positive resolution that henceforth no British subject in or out of the Company's Service, or their dependants, shall lend money, unless upon *respondentia*, at a higher rate of interest than 12 per cent. per annum, and that such sums of money as have been lent at a higher interest shall be recalled on the 11th day of April next, on pain of immediate dismissal and forfeiture of the Company's protection, of which resolution we direct you will make publication in due form, taking the most effectual steps to see it obeyed

We are, etc,

CLIVE.
H VERELAT
FRAS SYKES

No 104

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE

President and Governor and Gentlemen of Council at Fort William

MIDNAPORE
10th January 1767

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

This ac companies, under escort of a havildar and 12 seapoyas, 17 chests of treasure and 114 bales of piece goods dispatched from here this day, to be forwarded from Gongacolly upon the Compy's Mutwas

I am, etc
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 105

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD CLIVE, ETC, ETC

MIDNAPORE
10th January 1767

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have had the honour to receive your Commands of the 18th and 20th of December The Hon ble Company's additional order of investment *per Mercury* will be fully comprehended under the addition which was made here, with your approbation in the month of October last Their other orders relative to the lending of money at interest and the conduct to be observ'd towards the Dutch and French Companys, shall be punctually and faithfully complied with With respect to the latter circumstance I am happy in having been able hitherto to conduct the Company's affairs here in such a manner as to afford no ground of complaint to those nations on the contrary, I should hope they will do me the justice to declare that they have received all reasonable and necessary assistance in the business of their investment in this Province

I have this day d spatch d to Gongacolly 17 chests of treasure and 114 bales of cloth to be forwarded to your Lordship &c from thence upon the Companys Mutwas The bales are now pack d ready for Europe, agreeably to the late directions of the Export Warehouse Keeper, and the

cloths I hope, will in general meet with approbation. I must beg leave to remark, however, that this dispatch falls considerably short of what I expected on account of my being obliged to return the greatest part of the sannoes upon the Merchants hands into which they had put conjee——
——contrary to the most express and repeated orders

Enclo ed your Lordship, &c will receive the invoices of the treasure and piece goods together with the accounts of this Factory for the month of December, and a Bill of Exchange upon the Paymaster General for C Rs 6 600

Agreeably to your permission, a magazine is now building in the Fort, and enclo ed I transmit and estimate of the expence which I apprehend it will incur The particulars thereof shall be carefully made up and forwarded for your inspection, whenever the work is finished

I am, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

ENCLOSURE

Estimate of a Magazine for the Fort of Midnapore

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|-----|
| BRICK WORK—Including Bricks Churnam, Land, Liggee &c., &c and Workmens Wages | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| PLASTERING of the whole ... | 1 000 | 0 | 0 |
| RACKS &c, for the Barrels and Ammunition | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| FLOOR, No 2 Doors &c | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | Arcot Rupees | 5 200 | 0 0 |

A B—The Dimensions are as follows —

| | Foot | | Foot. |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Length | 24 | Height | 16 |
| Breadth | 16 | Door Guard Height | 8 |
| Thickness of the side walls | 6 | Length | 7 |
| Do | 3 | Breadth | 4 |

No 106

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD (LIVE ETC, ETC

MIDNAPORE
11th January 1767

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have had the honour to receive your commands of the 31st ultimo and the regulation which you therein prescribe with respect to the lending of money henceforward has been duly published at this Factory, It shall also be circulated throughout the Province in the most explicit manner, that no persons may have the power to plead, or pretend ignorance, and so far as regards myself I promise your Lordship, &c, that it shall be faithfully and scrupulously observed

I shall immediately set about making the enquiry which you direct relative to the Committee's orders of last Season, altho' I have not the smallest reason to suspect that they ever were trespassed upon within this jurisdiction. I did myself indeed lend some money to assist the Zemindars last year at the season of their cultivation, but I did not venture upon this transaction until I had first obtain'd the sanction of your Committee thro' the channel of Mr Verelst nor was the rate of interest stipulated by that gentleman, ever exceeded by me. The assistance to the Zemindars I must still think essentially necessary, to help them in carrying on the cultivation of their Lands and prevent others being obliged to dispose of their preceeding crop, (which at time of the year would sell very low and thereby produce deficiencies in their rents), and it may, therefore, not be an improper object of your Lordship &c's attention should it not suit with private persons to lend them money on the terms you have now prescribed, to establish some other method of furnishing them with a sufficient supply for the salutary purpose which I mention.

The accounts of the Revenues of the Midnapore and Jalesore Provinces as settled for the present year, are now forwarded to Mr Verelst, and I shall be happy if they meet with your and his approbation.

I have, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 107

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD CLIVE, ETC ETC

MIDNAPORE
17th January 1767

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith two copies of a sett of books containing the Acctt of the adjustment and collection of the Revenues of this Province, from September 1765 to August 1766 inclusive. One copy for the use of the Presidency, the other to be forwarded to Europe.

As these are the first books which have been kept by the Resident here I must beg leave to refer them to the inspection as well of your Lordship, &c, as of my Honble Employers that I may know whether the form of them meets with your and their approbation.

Another sett of books have in like manner been opened, to contain, distinct from the Revenue books the accounts of the Factory and of the Investment these I delivered ballanc'd to the 30th April last to Mr Witts, the Sub Accountant when I was in Calcutta on leave of absence, and I now write that gentleman to lay them also before your Lordship &c.

I further transmit agreeable to your former orders a statement of this Factory to be forwarded to Europe and is made up to the 15th instant.

I am, &c,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 108

To Mr GEORGE VANSITTART.

CALCUTTA

18th January 1767.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 12th instant with your treasury and account for the month of December and from Mr. Pearce¹ his bill on the P M General for Currnt Rs 11,100

As you think an extraordinary advance to the Zemindars of the Pargunnah Ourency² on account of poolbundy³ a necessary service I have no objection to your indulging them with the sum you

No 2 advised you of the arrival of treasure of 26th ultimo and the same . . . wrote you with the escort their return'd with . . . letter No 1

In your next Treasury and account I wish you would the dates of your invoice and bills

I am, etc ,

JAS ALPXAENDER.

No 109

To ENSIGN JOHN FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE

30th January 1767.

SIR,

To the westward of Midnapore there is a very large tract of country comprehended within the limits of the Province but of which the Zemindars, taking advantage of their situation, support themselves in a kind of independence. The continuance of this independence is judged to be highly unsuitable in the present situation of our Government, and is also thought to obstruct a commercial intercourse, which used heretofore to subsist between the Bengall Provinces and the districts to the westward of the Hills. The party, which you are appointed to the command of, is destined, therefore, to proceed against those Zemindars, with a view to reduce them to a proper subjection to our Government on payment of a just revenue, to enforce their obedience to the authority of the Resident of Midnapore, and to encourage if possible the merchants of the Western districts to open again their wonted communications with these provinces

Your several indents have been duly complied with, and as the party has been prepared under your own direction, I make no doubt but is completed with every necessary article

From the best information that I could collect here, I have form'd a statement of the situation of the several Districts against which the operations are intended, and I have also, with the same assistance, laid down a route, which is thought the best calculated for the providing against them. Copies of those papers I herewith deliver you for your guidance, so far as you shall find them confirm'd by your intelligence, or experience on the

¹ See Bengal Observatory p 75 ² Amarn ³ Poolbundi, a cess levied for the upkeep of bridges and embankments.

spot but whenever these shall render it eligible to deviate from them, you are entirely at your discretion to do so

Such of the Zemindars as readily and willingly demean themselves to our Government, and give security for the payment of an equitable revenue and their future good conduct it is intended shall be continued in their possessions, and many of them, I am told, will show a very early disposition to comply with these terms. I propose therefore, to accompany the party myself the length of the Thannah of Balrampore, where I will receive submission of those whom may be thus well disposed, and settle with them the rents that they are in future to pay. All the instruction that I can give you in the business of adjustment you will have an opportunity by, this means of receiving, and, after I leave the party, I will detach with you a person who is well versed in the revenue branch, by whose advice and your own judgment you will be guided in all further adjustments that it may be necessary to make. In general I beg leave to remark to you that as it is more the intention of our Government effectually to secure the Zemindars' submission than to make a temporary advantage of it, I think that end will be best accomplished by getting the payment of an equitable rent, and claiming from them one of their nearest relations to reside by way of hostage at Midnapore, at least for the first twelvemonth

Such of the Zemindars as thro' folly or obstinacy shall persist in refusing their submission, and attempt opposition to your party you will, of course, proceed against in a hostile manner, and employing all advantages that your intelligence or other circumstances may afford you, endeavour to expell them from their dominions. This once effected, the next step, if practicable, will be to appoint other persons to their Zemindaries, and if ever such case should occur, you must immediately advise the Resident of Midnapore with whom the choice to such persons is lodged. But if you apprehend the situation of the districts to be such that another person could not maintain himself in them without a force of our's constantly to support him it will then remain with you as well to inflict a punishment for the obstinacy and rebellion of the present incumbents, as to render them incapable of creating further disturbance in time to come the former by giving the personal property and possessions of such Zemindars and their lead people up to plunder the latter by destroying as much as possible their refuges and strongholds. Unless, however, where your duty requires this tenor of conduct you will please be particularly watchful that no plunder or ravage is committed by your men but that on the contrary the strictest lenity and moderation be observed and every encouragement given to the country people that you imagine can tend to ingratiate their affections towards our Government

The opposition that you may meet with I imagine will be very trifling. Indeed, the only risk in my opinion is from treachery or surprise surrounded as you will almost constantly be with thick woods. This renders it necessary that you should be always upon your guard, proceed with the greatest caution, and be particularly attentive in your choice of your encampment. The Zemindars of Dirinda* and Korangur† will attend you

* Price spells th s name Dharinda

† Price notes ' More properly spelt Karnagar was the seat of the Zamindar within the limit of whose estate the Midnapore Factory lay

with a parcel of their Black Troops and these you may employ in scouring the skirts of the road to prevent your suffering by any ambush or alarm

A bazar furnished with every necessary is order'd to attend you, and exclusive thereof, I have lorded 50 bullocks with provisions from the Company's stores. These are meant as a resource should your bazar at any time prove deficient or incapable of supplying you. They are, therefore, only to be used in case of such emergency, when the bazar men must be made accountable for what is expended

The whole service you have to perform may occupy, I should suppose, about the space of two months, but it may be highly eligible to fix on a central spot to encamp your party for some time longer in order to awe the Zemindars into a distinct observance of their engagements. On this and every other subject, you are to keep up a close correspondence with me or the Resident at Midnapore for the time being whose orders you are in every respect to follow. And if anything should occur which you think worthy the attention of the Governor of Calcutta, it will be proper on such occasions that you address him also

I have only further to recommend you to keep a journal of your proceedings, and possible to form a chart of the marches you make

I heartily wish you success, and am,

Sir, etc, etc,

[JOHN GRABAM]

No 110

TO THE GENTLEMEN OF COMMITTEE OF TRADE AT FORT WILLIAM

MIDNAPORE

31st January 1767

GENTLEMEN,

The delivery of the remainder of Anundpore Salt being now completed to Consuant, &c, Merchants, I transmit you enclosed their gomastahs receipts for the same, together with the following accounts

Account receipt of Salt at Anundpore Golabs to the 31st instant —

General Account Current of the Receipts and Deliveries of salt at Anundpore Golabs 1766

Account Charges Merchandise to the 31st instant

Cash Account for the Month of Janry 1767

All these I hope will meet with your approbation and for the amount of the Charges March Merchandise, I have drawn a bill on you in favor of Mr Lawrell which I am to request you will honor with payment

I have order'd the three peons to be retain'd in pay to look after the golabs until the receipt of the New Years Salt, and all the rest of the servants I have for the present discharged

I am, etc.,

[JOHN GRABAM]

No 111.

To JOHN GRAHAM, Esq

CALCUTTA

1st February, 1767

(Answered 5th, 1767)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a copy of your order to Ensign Ferguson which in my opinion are very proper in every respect, except where you mention the giving up the personal property and possession of the rebellious Zemindars to plunder. The seizures excited by a thirst of plunder will be guilty of a thousand enormities, and it will be out of the power of their officers to restrain them from committing the most shocking extremities. The Zemindars also will by this usage be driven to despair, and the country will be depopulated by the flight of its inhabitants.

Instead of that paragraph, I must, therefore desire you will insert one to the following purport 'that he is desired to seize on the personal property of the Zemindars and send them to Midnapore.' If you should think that the soldiers are deserving of a reward, you may distribute the effects amongst them at their return and the officers in order to encourage them to do their duty with cheerfulness, you may acquaint them with your resolution.

I am etc,

H VERELST

No 112

To ENSIGN JOHN FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE.

1st February 1767

SIR,

As I find my appointment to Burdwan and the business which I have to settle here before my departure will not admit of my absence from the Factory for a space of time sufficient to render the service expected from my accompanying your party, I am obliged to set aside that intention, and you will therefore proceed without further delay.

To assist you in adjusting with those Zemindars who may be disposed to submit to our Government without giving trouble, I have ordered two persons, Critickram and Chudnun Goss to attend you. The latter is an intelligent man in the revenue business in general the former is particularly acquainted with the families and possessions of the jungle Zemindars, and will, therefore be able, I should imagine, to render essential service.

As soon as you arrive at the Tanna of Bulrampore, you should issue orders summoning the whole to come in, and pay their submission, and then halt six eight, or ten days, according as you see a prospect of those orders being productive of success. After that time, I would not wish you, without very good reasons occur, to protract your stay at Bulrampore, but to proceed without further delay to the reduction of each Zemindar separately who refuses compliance.

I shall expect to hear from you frequently, and shall always be ready to give you every assistance in my power as to the business of adjustment.

I am, etc.,
(Sd.) JOHN GRAHAM.

No. 113.

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM, RESIDENT AT MIDNAPORE.

(GENL. LETTER.)
FORT WILLIAM:
The 2nd February 1767.
(Recd. 9th February 1767.)

Sir,

We have received your letter dated the 17th and of last month. It is certainly necessary that such advances be made to the farmers as may enable them to go on with the cultivation of the lands, but the rate of such advances must never exceed 12 per cent., agreeably to the positive orders lately received from the Company, and unless other means are found of supplying them at that rate the money must be advanced out of the Company's cash.

We have appointed you to the Residency of Bardwan, whither you must repair as soon as Mr Vansittart can relieve you at Midnapore, and as the revenues of these provinces fall under the Department of Mr Russell, the Collector General, you are constantly to correspond with him on that subject, and to obey such orders as he may transmit, in the same manner as under the late supervisor.

The batta of siccaes will fall of the 11th of April next, being the close of the Bengal year, when the 8 suns will be issued for the sicca of the year, the 7 suns reduced to 13 per cent, and the 6 suns reduced to suavats, of which you will cause publick notice to be given as usual

Lord Clive, being under the necessity of returning to England on account of his health, has broken his passage on the *Britannia*. He left town on the 26th of last month, and is succeeded by Harry Verelst, Esquire, in the Government of this Presidency.

We are,
Sir,
Your Loving Friends,
H. VERELST.
RICHARD SMITH.*
FRAS STEES.
CLAUD RUSSELL.
W. ALDERSEY.
THOS. KELSALL.
ALEX. CAMPBELL.

* General Richard Smith.

No 114

To ENSIGN JOHN FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE

3rd February 1767.

Sir,

As the Governor* to whom I sent a copy of my orders to you on the 30th ultimo thinks that the admitting of plunder, even in the justifiable case therein mentioned, may be productive of disorders among your people and detriment to the service in view, I am now to desire that you will supersede that clause of my instructions, and instead of plundering the personal property and possessions of the rebellious Zemindars that you will order everything on such occasions to be seized and sent into Midnapore. If you on your return, shall report the sepoys to be deserving of a reward, all those effects shall be distributed amongst them, and, in order to encourage them to do their duty with cheerfulness, you may acquaint them with this my resolution

I am, Sir, etc, etc,
J GRAHAM

No 115

[To JOHN GRAHAM]

DERHWAH

3rd February 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I have the pleasure . . . acquaint you that we arrived day at eleven o'clock all well . . . last night I sent your letter . . . and my own to ye Jargong Zemindar and the two brothers near the Tanna of Bulramjore I have had no direct answer as yet from the Jargong fellow. However, the Naib and Buxie hear he intends to appear to-morrow and make his submission, on which account I by their advice have resolved to wait here until 12 o'clock to-morrow as they advise, but if he don't appear, then I shall proceed against him according to the tenor of my instructions

The Colienpore Zemindar has made his appearance here and I am told by them that there's no settlement necessary with him as he attends at Midnapore

This evening the Naib also informs me that the harcaro and peons sent to Sandanara, Zemindar of Phulkupama† report that . . . wants only to give 300 rupees, but that . . . ram (own's) people say that they pay . . . sircary 500 and insist on the same sum . . . him, and we should be glad of your orders on that head as the harcaro and peons will remain here until your instructions are sent us

This evening also I had a solem [salaam?] from Goupenet Moratta and two of his sons, one of which has been with me this two days, and his other 3rd son comes to-morrow I returned them all pane I received

* The Governor here mentioned is Harry Verelst Lord Clive left Bengal on January 26th, 1767

† Phulkuma (Price)

all things mentioned before our setting out last night and I cut a very deputy-like figure in the evenings. Breid I also had last night. With most grateful heart and sincere regard I am of you and family

A most earnest well-wisher,

JOHN FERGUSSON

A Return of the Irregulars

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Gupinram Buxie's foot .. | ... 250 Hrs |
| Cartiel ram's Dorinda Zemindar | . 50 , |
| Goupinet's Son—Nunum | ... 100 .. |
| Jugerut Gogindr . | 50 .. |

The remainder of Buxie's people arrive to morrow

JOHN FERGUSSON

Beha Iro Dep—
of the Province
Commander .
of Jungle De

No 116

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM at Midnapore

JOSEPH WILLIAM
February 10th 1767.

SIR

We have received your letter of the 31st ultimo, with the several accounts enclosed and the bill you have drawn on us in favor of Mr Lawrel shall be duly honored

We are Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

CLAUDE RUSSELL
CHARLES FLOYER

No 117

TO ENSIGN JOHN FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE
4th February 1767

SIR

I was favoured this evening with your two letters of the 3rd. As I am willing to conjecture that the appearance of the Jargong Zemindars was only prevented by the intervention of the Gentoo holiday, I approve entirely of the halt you intend to make to give him time to come in. But if after that instance of forbearance he should be found to have trifled with you, I think he will be little deserving of further lenity

It is true that the Callianpore Zemindar acknowledges his dependence on Midnapore, and pays a trifling tribute at the catcherry annually, but as that sum, of about Rs. 30, can be by no means adequate to the produce of the pergunna, the present opportunity should not be let slip of settling with a proper equivalent. As he marches along with you, you can do this at Balrampore, and I have also desired Chundnum Ghose to attend thereto.

The demand on the Fulkusma Zemindar is for the amount of a robbery at Anundpore which is proved to have been committed by his people. It is independent of your present service, but so good an opportunity should not be lost of effecting the recovery for Sitaram Cawn, who has already made the damage good to the sufferers, and has had many considerable sums to pay for losses of this kind in the course of this last year.

I am, etc., etc.,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 118

TO JOHN GRAHAM

JARONG FORT

5th February 1767

Eleven o'clock forenoon

DEAR SIR,

After having resolved to remain some part of the day, as I wrote at Darhwah, as I had reason to expect the Zemindar of Jargong would attend me there, taking the precaution however to order the buldars to mend the road, our peons arrived about 3 o'clock, and as our replies from the Zemindar seemed calculated only to gain time, I [was] heartily vexed that I had halted at all, marched off immediately, and reached three coss where we lay on our arms for 6 hours, as the roads would not admit of proceeding further in the night. This halt was at a village called Bangora in the Jargong Province, and as we came on them unexpectedly, we seized some bullocks, a large quantity of grain and mustard. Notwithstanding our picks, we were alarmed several times by about 300 of them, whose aim seemed to be carrying off the grain, etc., but none of the sepoys suffered in the least, and only two of Goupinet's people, with in the breast, and another in the arm. What effects we seized in this place were left in charge of a jemedar [?] of the Musendaer's with a guard of pikes over it. As soon as I could with any safety for my guns proceed, I marched off and altho' the distance was but three coss, yet we did not arrive here until past nine hearing on the road that the Zemindar had gone off in the night and left only a guard of about 200 men, and also that he was removing his effects as fast as he could. I order'd a jemedar and 20 sepoys to advance attended by 100 irregulars and to invest the Fort, and endeavour to prevent the people as well as the effects from escaping but by no means to attack if they remained quiet within until the whole came up. On the appearance of that small party of sepoys at the principal gate, the remainder of the enemy made the best of their way into the jungle by another gate. I have reason to believe that they are all very near us, if I can trust my intelligence. What effects there may be here and the description of the Fort I leave till to-morrow, as I esteem it necessary to wait your orders here, seeing a small part of sepoys left behind would not suffice, and seeing this

fellow's force is still entire, also to take an invoice of the effects that remain in it

Hence also I have sent perwanas in form to Malgutch Chikmoney Rancee of Jul una to attend me here, he being only a coss distant

The order of seizing the rebellious Zemindars' effects and sending them to Midnapore gives me uneasiness, and I require particular advice in it, as I have got not any spare bullocks or coolies nor can I well spare any detachment to guard it always when any may be reduced I should be glad to know how far my power extends in selling grain and other necessaries to the Bysar [Bazar] and accounting for the money.

I have, from the tenor of my general instructions, privately countenanced Chunderam Goss to negotiate with the Runaway—on his giving good security for a just revenue and obedience to our Government With best wishes and respects to Mrs Graham and children and compliments to [the] gentlemen I am with the best regard,

Dear Sir,
Your earnest well wisher
and humble servant,
JOHN FERGUSSON.

No. 119

TO ENSIGN JOHN FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE
6th February 1766

SIR,

A few hours ago I was favoured with your letter of yesterday, and I beg leave to congratulate you on your success against the Fort of the Jargong Zemindar The whole tenor of your progress thither meets with my entire approbation, altho' I confess I should have wished that your success had been the result of a more decisive stroke, for the Zemindar, having been able to effect his escape without suffering any defeat will I am afraid, serve to embarrass our operations It will be impossible from so small a party as yours to leave a garrison in every fort that you may be obliged to reduce and to leave them without one would just be undoing what it may have cost you trouble to do, for there is no kind of doubt that the runaways would immediately return to possession My sentiments, then, on the present case, in addition to the general plan of your instructions, take as follows —

The obstinacy or folly of this man has obliged you to proceed hostilely against him, and to make him the first example of the superiority of our arms let us also, if possible, make him the first example of our lenity and moderation, with a view of enjoining others to cheerful submission and allegiance to our Government For this purpose I would recommend you to write him a letter yourself, setting before him the folly and absurdity of his conduct, and the ill consequences which they have been productive of to himself and to his affairs, but to convince him however that your original intentions were only to enforce his submission and obedience to his proper Government, you still invite him to return in full security of protection, provided he is disposed to execute reasonable terms for the rents of his country and his future good conduct, that to consider of, and embrace this

overture you will allow him a limited time (suppose 24 hours), after which space, if he still stands out, that measures will unquestionably be taken for his total expulsion from his zemindary and no subsequent advances on his part will be received or assented to

Unless the man is a great fool indeed, I think he will not let this last resource escape him, but, if he should, you must then proceed to establish another person in his zemindary. The most proper candidates I can suggest are the four that are with you —Siteram Cawn (by his proxy Govindram), Cartickram, Gopinant, and Rogunaut Guzindar, and I leave it to you to fix the choice on the one who you judge will be best capable of supporting himself in possession, and offer the best term for the Company

One of these methods I think must unquestionably take place, and I will therefore at present avoid saying anything on the last disagreeable necessity of demolishing his Fort and laying waste his villages

As to the effects which you have seized, if the Zemindar returns, I should wish them restored to him, and you may engage him to make in lieu some consideration to the captors, but if the zemindary is given to another, that person can have no such claim and you will in such case dispose of what you please to your bazar, and if possible find means to transport the rest to Babadarpore, from whence I will bring it in here. In future cases, where this from the distance cannot be done, you must make a regular sale in your own camp in the manner you propose

After finishing affairs at this Jargong, I would recommend to you to proceed immediately to Bulrampur to take advantage of this example for bringing the rest of the Zemindars in and that, if possible, without acting further offensive

I am, etc, etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 120

To J GRAHAM

JARGONG FORT
7th February 1767.

DEAR SIR

After having wrote you a long letter of yesterday I was favoured with yours, from the tenor of which you'll see that tho you are good enough not to disapprove of my halting at Derhwh that it has been of material detriment to myself and party, if not to the intended views of the Company as by that delay the Zemindar had time for carrying off all his live stock, and if he has not carried off his treasure, he has hid it so that it has evaded that of yesterday's search

On the receipt of your's hinting that if he did not appear, seeing I halted on his account, that no favour should be shown him I order'd a party to be made to be in readiness to march immediately with which I intended to take possessions of Radnagar his largest place. As here I would however, consult my Council who approved of the measure but were for delaying and for sending negociators beforehand, but on my absolutely rejecting delay on account of my present disappointment, and ordering the party to march with Cartickram for their guide and some of his people, they, to my no small surprise, told me that the Sirdar of the village of

Radnagar was ready to wait on me, and make his obedience for self and people to me as acting for the Deputy of the Phonsdar of Midnapore and immediate Zemindar of the Pergana, and to pay any reasonable taxes to the Company that may be required, and also to acknowledge my Zemindar that we may appoint by advice of Chundam Gose and Nidriram Bro both of whom I think very intelligent

I admitted of their plea in general, and delayed further particulars, ordering him however to attend me with 40 of his people like a true and faithful subject. Bolam [Salaam] received and have given

I think it advisable to improve on this point and to make all the villages follow the example of Radnagar

I avoid giving any account of prize or seizure effects, as I imagine it will be very trifling. I enclose Kyd's letter which will best show your kind concern about Mrs. I am determined to have patience until I have published information but before I either assume or despond on the head, tho' I think Kyd's letter over balances Maxwell's. Your opening of my letter or any of mine would require no apology for from you. It would be a piece of freedom that would give me pleasure, knowing that it would be to satisfy your kindly curiosity in something relating my advantage. If this displeases you scratch it out, for I was dreaming when I wrote, considering so late a caveat

With best wishes and respects to Mrs. Graham and children and compliments to gentlemen, with real regard, I am

Dear Sir
Your earnest well wisher
and humble servant
JOHN FERGUSON

P S — Having delayed to send off your letter in hopes of some more intelligence I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have had a visit this evening from the vakeils of the two brothers in the Tanna to make their submission in the name of their master who are to attend at Pertapore and settle any revenue that I can desire and they have in their power to pay. The Naib also — with his brother and vakeil are arrived. I have only received his visit and given pane to night. He is to attend us with fifty people, and assist in reducing any of his brethren who refuse to obey the order sent them

This scheme of their going with us, altho I give into it as being strongly recommended by my Monnutes when we keep Court is not entirely to my military notions. We have had spies and barcaros out after this Zemindar since we arrived, but have as yet got no intelligence tho' in a fair way of coaxing his subjects from him who seem ambitious to serve their visitors

The only news we can procure of him that he is in the thick of the jungle about 6 or 7 coss off. I have this moment received your's, the contents of which I'll pay the strictest regard to, and judge it proper to send off your barcaro whom I detain'd with the contents above

JOHN FERGUSON.

7th February, Saturday, 10 o'clock.

No 121.

To LIEUT FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE

9th February 1767.

Sir,

I have received your favours of the 7th and 8th instant, but the contents of the first being superseded by the second, I shall take the liberty to pass them over in silence, and begin with assuring you that I am glad to find the method, which I recommended has had the desired effect on the Jargong Zemindar and that he at length offers a compromise. The sum which you mention I am perfectly satisfied with, but I do not approve of his seemingly offering it in the light of a purchase for his independence afresh. You must immediately convince his vakeel that this cannot be the case that the sum to be paid to the Company must become an established annual revenue, that it must be paid monthly at the Cutcherry of Midnapore, and that a teshbee paper must be executed accordingly. This regular settlement I say, you must conclude with his vakeel when you arrive at Bulrampore. In the meantime, I approve entirely of your having accepted security, and restored his Fort to him as it will serve to strengthen and confirm the confidence of our moderation and good intentions, which appear to be now opening amongst them.

Your sepoy having behaved with much good order in the midst of plunder (the greatest temptation that be thrown in a soldier's way) certainly renders them deserving of a just reward more especially as had the Zemindar's effects been destroyed it must have incapacitated him to afford such good terms for the Company. You will therefore pledge him to settle a consideration, and let it be what you think reasonable without the risk of making them too rich. The residue you will adjust in a public account and transmit to me. The same method you will also observe in future, without taking the trouble of making farther reference. Only you will please to remark that unless when your party acts offensively the sepoy can have no claim to be considered. In my letter to Chundnun Gose, I have sent you the Cutcherry opinion as to the settlement of the Jargong rents to which I refer.

Your intention with respect to the Jambuna man is very proper. At the Tanna of Bulrampore, you will endeavour to settle with as many as you possibly can —as well as those mentioned in my papers, as these which you may discover from your intelligence on the spot.

I am, etc, etc,

JOHN GRAHAM

No 122

MIDNAPORE

9th February 1767.

To THE HONBLE HARRY VERELST, Esq,

President and Governor and Council at Fort William.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 2nd instant. I beg leave to congratulate Mr. Verelst on his accession to the Government, and to offer

my warmest wishes for the success and prosperity of the Hon'ble Company's affairs under his administration

I shall agreeably to your orders hold myself in readiness to proceed to Burdwan, whenever Mr Vansittart arrives to take the charge here, and I shall also observe your directions for corresponding with Mr Russell, as Collector General, relative to the business of the revenues

* Due proclamation shall be made regarding the new sicca and the fall of batta on the rupees of former years the same shall also be punctually attended to on the receipt of the revenues

I have the honor to transmit you enclosed the accounts of this Factory for the month of January, together with a bill of exchange upon the Paymaster General for (Rs 10,100

I am etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 123.

To JOHN GRAHAM

CAMP IN BELRAMPORE TANNA :
11th February 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I received your letter yesterday afternoon, and altho' I arrived here yesterday, as yet there was so little worthy of your ear that I delayed writing till this evening—which will be despatched in the morning

These people all plead poverty and make such delay that there is some difficulty to keep patience with them, yet I am the most stately man in the world, and do keep mine hitherto more than I thought myself capable of We have in attendance at present the Jambunie who has at last got over the hundred rupees he stuck so long at We have not absolutely settled, but I believe that he cannot afford to give a cowrie above 700 alah Sicca rupees That more may be got at present is certain, but as your intention is for a settled as revenue, and in circumstances as far as I know, he can afford no more There are also the two Tanna Zemindars and the Jathunie, who looks something like a gentleman All his rayats, instead of running away like the others came in a body, ~~perducing to see their~~ master as they called me, which I indulged them in by going out of the limits on the encampment where they were I was saluted with a general solem [salaam] and nusa* from the others, to all of whom in this Ianna, we have despatched perwana There is no time for answer if any should arrive before sealing of this letter I shall mention the Zemindar of Sanka Coolia has been talked to on the subject He says he'd do what he can and if that don't please us he'll give up his purgana to any other who will take it on our terms I really think from what I saw of the country that he cannot be in the same flourishing situation which his forefathers were

* Nuzzer—a ceremonial present

in, if I may judge from the Tawor Mull's¹ Taxeram jumma. His brother desires more time to think, being on the spot

I am, Dear Sir,
Your most earnest well wisher and
most humble servant,

JOHN FERGLUSON.

No 121

TO JOHN GRAHAM.

TANNA OF BULRAMPORE

14th February 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you the 11th, which I make no doubt of your having received. I am now to communicate to you the transactions of yesterday, and to-day. In the first place, then, on the head of intelligence, altho' our hircaros are not arrived from the 5 Zemindars of this Tanna, who have not appeared yet, we hear that the Sajahur and Ameynagur² Zemindars mean to make their appearance the other three we could not expect to hear of as yet on account of the distance. We learn also that Damoder Sing, who it seems has taken possession of some villages near Ameynagur, has run away, on hearing of our having arrived at Bulrampore. From the other quarter we are told the Zemindar of Gatscelea³ has posted troops in all the avenues and inlets to his purgany, and is determined not to admit a Phryngo [Firingi]⁴ in his country on any account. This has induced me to delay sending his perwanni, until I arrive at the Tanna of Janpore that any contempt he may presume to offer to the Hon'ble Company in the person of their messenger may be immediately followed by chastisement, for I won't allow myself to suppose that he can defend himself against us. If of this intention you should disapprove, there will be sufficient time to apprize me of it, as we have to settle with the five Rajas above-mentioned before we move to that quarter.

As to the settling branch I am afraid that this year, if it is intended effectually to render this country an useful part of the Province, the expense may at least equal the revenue it will yield. For, to do them justice their country at present wears a poor appearance, and from mutual robberies committed on one another and from the oppression of the former Collector, Todel Mull, many are really in no condition to pay a considerable revenue, and those that are have wherewithal to prevent the intelligence coming to our ears so as to enable me to make a proper adjustment. I am, therefore, duly convinced from experience that your opinion, as expressed in my general instructions, though attended with some expense, will be the only method of reducing this country to the yielding of an adequate and orderly revenue, that is being stationed with some force in a

¹ Todel Mull

² Supur and Ambikanagar in Bankura

³ The Raja of Dhalbhum, see O Malley Sing's Lhum, etc Bengal District Gazetteers,
p 27

⁴ Firingi—a European

central place, whereby awing the whole, every individual would enjoy his own and whereby further acquaintance with the people and country, a just notion could be formed in what estimation it may be held. This also would give a sure beginning to the other intended purpose of re opening the trade with such security as must of course make it flourish. Nor do I find on inquiry that the country is barren of a fund for commerce, for I understand they have abundance of iron, wax, oil, dammer, buffaloes, besides the capital article of timber, now could we but convince the people that by trading in these articles, and by tilling their lands they will benefit themselves more, and lead a happier life than by addicting themselves to theft and robbery as they now do, then would our point be gained in its utmost latitude.

How are we to do this then but by forcibly preventing their continuance in their present courses, and setting them the example in what we wish them to learn? Excuse this presumption, for by it I have not the least conception of having pointed out anything new. I only have the vanity to think that I have dived in some measure into your sentiments on this head.

This morning about eleven began a pretty heavy rain which lasted till about eleven. However it has not hurt the stores—only a few of the ball'd cartridges of those on guard are rendered useless.

With best wishes and respects to Mrs Graham and children, and compliments to all the gentlemen. With real esteem and regard

I am Dear Sir,

Your earnest well-wisher and
most humble servant,

JOHN FERGUSON

To be despatched early to-morrow

No 125

To J GRAHAM

BULRAMPORE TANNA

14th February 1767

Sir,

I have the pleasure to transmit to you an account of the Annual Revenues settled for the following Parganas —

| Paid formerly | | | | Allah Sicca Rupees | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------------------------|-------|----|---|
| A S R | 126 | 6 | 0 | { The Ramgur Pargana | 616 | 0 | 0 |
| " | " | 84 | 15 10 | { The Sankacoolia Pargana | 879 | 11 | 6 |
| " | " | 238 | 11 15 | { The Jamburane Pargana | 616 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | { The Jathania Pargana | 703 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | 2,814 | 11 | 6 |
| | | | | { Bulrampore Tanna | | | |
| | | | | { Jaunpore do | | | |
| | | | | { The Jargong Purgana | 400 | 11 | 0 |
| Sum Total Allah Sicca . | | | | | 3,215 | 6 | 6 |

The particulars are drawn out and transmitted in Bengala by Chund Doo.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JOHN FERGUSON.

No 126.

TO LIEUT FERGUSON

MIDNAPORE
16th February 1767

SIR,

I am now to acknowledge receipt of two letters from you, dated the 11th and two the 14th, and to express to you my entire approbation of the adjustments, which you have made with the Zemindars who have come in. If a continuance of the same success should attend your operations and negotiations, the whole of the expedition must terminate greatly both to your credit and mine. I approve also of the manner in which you propose proceeding against the Gateela Zemindar, and if in the course of your progress can lay hands upon Dumoder Sing, you will do a piece of service which must acquire you additional credit after the many fruitless attempts which have been made to seize him. You will remark, however that I express "in the course of your progress," because I would not wish you to deviate from the object of your instructions for a business of *élat* only.

Your sentiments regarding the conduct proper to be observed towards our new subjects are exceedingly just and rational they concur entirely with my own and, depend upon it I shall endeavour to inculcate their propriety to Mr Vansittart who I dare say will support you in every proposal which carries the smallest prospect of reducing these new districts to order and resulting benefits both to them and the Company

I am etc, etc,
JOHN GRAHAM

No 127

TO J. GRAHAM

BULRAMPORE TANNA
16th February 1767

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you on the 11th, 14th, and on the 18th by a *pune*¹ who brings you some wild beasts

As the five Zemindars to the westward of the Tanna seem to have rather taken sufficient time to consult whether they would come in or not, I yesterday despatched a *harcaro* to know what my *punes* were doing. He brought me the intelligence that two companies of *sepoys* from Bisanapore have suddenly appeared with a view to catch Dumoder Singh, that the latter escaped into the thick jungle with his people and the Ameynagar Zemindar, in whose country the Raja was, has retired into the most jungly

¹ Peon

part of his Pargana, that our puna was all alone in possession of the bysar, that he however had procured speech of some of his (the Zemindar's) people, who understanding that their intentions were not hostile, had engaged either to bring him in presence of the Zemindar or deliver his message, and that his vakiel, as well as the Suphur one will arrive to-morrow. Of the other three we have not the smallest intelligence, and it is my opinion that, in order effectually to settle the revenue of these zemindars (which are by the best account I can here procure both rich and extensive comparatively to what we have seen), even if they should agree to attend here and settle, that we ought to advance into a central place in the midst of their's in order to make them immediately acquiesce in reasonable terms. If you agree to this I'll expect your orders here, whence I shall proceed immediately after but if you think any other method more advisable you need only mention it. I have had here a visit from the Zemindars of Rurpore, Fulkisma, and a brother of the latter, who are in possession of a principal part of or near this Tanna, but call themselves Bengala wals. As such I have not of myself interfered with them, they not being mentioned in my instructions, further than declaring your orders regarding the robbery to the Fulkisma Zemindar, but by what intelligence I can procure the tesil they pay is trifling whereas, they could afford a pretty considerable one, besides from the situation of their purgunas they ought to pay their revenue in the Tanna, otherwise it will not be regular but zig-zag. Now if you will think it advisable to grant me instructions to that purpose, I am told that these three could yield annually to the Company no less than 3,000 allah sicca rupees. This I think it would be incumbent on me to write, tho' there may be no propriety in it as I am not certain these circumstances are already known.

We still hear from the other quarter of the preparation of the Gatseela Zemindar such as the breaking of the road barricading all narrow passes by felling of trees, etc. *Notwithstanding of all which, I imagine he'll, like the rest, submit without striking a blow if not the worse for him.*

I hope you'll be so good as to order the Outwall to send us three or four washermen. We, that is the sepoy and camp adherents being much distressed for want. We also want a reinforcement of 10 quire Bengala papers for the Cugerie Churz for my munsaliers hold court twice a day.

With best wishes and respects to Mrs. Graham and children and compliments to all the gentlemen. With real esteem and regard

I am, Dear Sir,

Your earnest well-wisher,
and most obedient servant

JOHN FERGUSSON

To be despatched at daylight

P S—This day arrived a vakiel from Jargong confirming the death of the old Zemindar. He brought a letter from the old man's son (who, he says is about 12) which was also signed by the brother, offering to ratify all his father's engagements with us and any others in his power, and desiring leave to visit me at Jaunpore when he arrived there—which I granted.

I cannot omit mentioning here the liberal supply of bread, which arrives daily, and also that this day I dined on one of the best bacon hams ever I tasted

We have had two hours' heavy rain this morning with high wind, all last night it thunder'd no damaged done to the stores however. I have got with me two of your barcaros still over and above my own four, your two are worth 50 of my fellows, whom if I had not paid advance I should certainly have made bidders as they know nothing at all. However, they assist to fill up a vacancy in our stately processions.

No 128

TO LIEUT. FERGUSON.

MIDNAPUR

18th February 1767

SIR,

I have received your favour of the 16th instant. As the purgannahs of the five Zemindars dependent on the Tannah Bulrampore who are still to settle with you at such a distance as to render it doubtful whether they will come into you at your present station, I approve entirely of your proposal for marching to a situation nearer them, in order to bring them to a speedy settlement. They may otherwise relax from the good disposition they at present profess to be in, and occasion us fresh trouble to bring them to a proper way of thinking.

The Zemindars of Roypore and Fooksuma have taken advantage of their situation to avoid making their submission, and prying an equitable rent to the Burdwan Province on which they are dependent. As that Province belongs also to the Company, we should certainly employ the opportunity which now offers of bringing them to a settlement. Your so doing, therefore, I by all means recommend to you upon the same plan you have been directed to observe towards others, and we shall leave it to be determined hereafter whether the collections may continue to be made under the Tannah Bulrampore.

If the troops from Bissenpore continue their wild and fruitless pursuit after Damodar Sing, they will, I am afraid, serve to disturb the operations and more peaceful intentions of your party. Of this you will be a better judge when you advance nearer the Ameynagar, etc, districts, and, if then you really find that they prejudice the service you are upon I will submit it to the Governor's determination whether they may not be recalled.

When you have finished with the five Zemindars abovementioned, you will, of course, pursue your road to the Tannah of Jaunpore, and from thence proceed as expeditiously as possible against the zemindar of Gatsela. His preparations for war only serve to demonstrate his folly, although as I believe it is a good rule in generalship not to despise the enemy we have to oppose, they may render a greater degree of caution and circumspection necessary on your part.

The death of the Jargong Zemindar is something extraordinary. However, I approve entirely that his son be confirmed in his country, as it will

strengthen still farther their confidence in the good intentions of our Government. If a first payment of money from all those who have been settled with could be sent in, it would carry an appearance favourable to our plan.

I am etc,
JOHN GRAHAM

No 129

To J GRAHAM

BULRAMPORE TANNA
10th February 1767

DEAR SIR,

I have received both your favors, dated the 16th and 18th last and it gives me real satisfaction that you approve of our hitherto adjustments, also that my sentiments regarding the conduct to be observed towards these people concur with your's

Since writing my last, have arrived vakiels from two Zemindars viz, of Suphur and Mhaa Booom. The former told us that our messengers had gone to the Ameynagore Zemindar, and that his vakiel would certainly come but as yet he is not arrived of the other two we have heard nothing nor of our peons, etc, sent to that quarter. In consequence of your approbation expressed in your last I propose marching hence tomorrow in order effectually to settle these five zemindaries if possible in the negotiation way, and, if that won't do, by force as the last resource

I shall immediately make the requisite inquiry towards the real undoubted knowledge what revenue the Raipore and Fulkisma walls really pay, and completely follow your instructions in adjusting with them. It may not be misplaced to remark here that the former has without hesitation agreed to pay the sum demanded for the robbery at Auundpore and if I am not mistaken paid a large dividend already

That the Ameynagur Zemindar's betaking himself to the jungles was owing to the Bishnagore troops coming into his country is certain, if we may believe our intelligence and the only account we had of the Chatna walla was that he had run away on the same account. What further occurs or that I hear, I'll do myself the pleasure of transmitting you from among them

You may depend upon my discretion in all my proceedings, whether against the Gatsela Zemindar or any other. I shall in every respect act with more caution than if my operation were purely military, sensible that if I met with the least check not to mention repulse it would undo all our prior success. I shall therefore satisfy myself with planning, ordering, and setting afoot manœuvres and operations whether to distress the enemy or actually to vanquish them, exposing myself only where a bold push may require my example in order effectually to execute it. By later intelligence we are informed that Dinndar Sing has joined this Gatsela walla as also some other petty princes in his neighbourhood. If so it will only increase our laurels for I have confidence in my troops nor can I see how a parcel of naked ill-fed and undisciplined savages can

stand against disciplined troops, tho' far inferior in number, but as my aversion to making brave fellows, for so I hope mine are, suffer by exposing themselves in disadvantageous circumstances as that of ground etc., I have been revolving in my mind how to lessen this evil as much as the service will admit of, and from my intelligence, I am made acquainted with a circumstance which may be of importance, viz. a breach which has for some time existed betwixt the Gatsela Zr and his nephew, and heir, whom he has driven from his territories, and who at present resides with another Zemindar and this breach is of more importance from the circumstance of the present Zemindar's suspicious and distrustful temper, which evidences itself by his shutting himself up in a strong house within the Fort lest his people should murder him, and putting many of them to death on bare suspicion. From the circumstances, if true, I should be apt to imagine that by setting up the heir in opposition to the tenant that his people would be detached from him and he become an easy prey.

Your sentiments on this subject in some of the letters you, of course, may write in the interim, will give this opinion weight or otherwise with me, according to the tenor of them.

I have advanced Govindram Duxie Rs 100, but he demands as for such more, he having received in all but Rs 200 from Sitaram Cawn and he is himself about Rs 70 out of pocket. Whether to advance him more and the sum will depend on yours to this purpose.

A poor fellow with a gun-shot wound. I took the freedom of advising to go to Midnapore for assistance. This I did from political as well as charitable motives to convince those people, as well of our humanity, as of the various advantages which accrue from an intercourse with us.

As to the revenue, we are happy that we have it in our power to comply with your request to send the 9 of a proportion at present, for in eight or ten days we shall not only be able to send an account of what Sitaram's people have collected in January, but also the Pagun month's revenue from the five Zemindars who have already come in. The Kysterbund rent we will also send.

My people have this day represented to me that as I leave this and they along with me that a careful person was necessary in the style of tannadar. I accordingly have constituted a tannadar and a nobisinea of Balrampore this day out of Chundun Doss' retinue to collect the rents and in my absence, I hope this step is not improper. This latter part I wrote with my Council besides me, though I am sorry to say that in the transactions of so polite a Court a few barbarous expressions should be interspersed with such as "pagun," "nobisinea," etc. You'll overlook I hope this little vein of gaiety, as it gives me much spirits to have hitherto acted so satisfactorily to the person I am so desirous to please and that, too, in the course of my public duty, that I can't contain myself entirely. However, as my success has been totally owing to the fulness and propriety of your instructions and advices, I shall particularly make it my business to adhere to them, as the only circumstance in which I can challenge to myself any merit on the occasion. This moment is arrived the Ameynagar vakil. His master is willing to submit, but says that he cannot do much on account of his country been plundered, some of the villages burnt on the one hand by Damunadar Sing and by the Company's

troops on the other. He also brings intelligence that the Bura Boicom¹ Zemindar will also submit but that there is a company of sepoys in the Chatna zemindary on account of some Pacquet² Raja (I think they call him) who have committed such violences and at least have occasioned such a terror that Zemindar and all are run into the jungles. I believe I may say it without assuming that (if 1 or 2 companys are sufficient to seize Damunadar Singh) while I am on my present service there is no occasion to send any other force into this part of Midnapore Province on his account. For if there are troops of pleasure sent among these people tho the discipline is never so strict I can foresee that this business of collecting the revenues will be tedious for they only want a plausible excuse to turn it to the best account on the one hand and on the other they are really so terrified in these cases that it entirely interrupts their family business for the time.

To morrow morning by daybreak we set out for Goreapara as does the bearer of this for Midnapore.

Offering my best wishes and respects to Mrs Graham and children and compliments to the gentlemen I always am with real esteem and regard

Dear Sir

Your earnest well wisher

JOHN FERGUSSON

No 130

To J GRAHAM

CAMP NEAR SUPHUR

22nd February 1767.

DEAR SIR

I did myself the pleasure you the night before setting off from Bulrampore since which we have had 3 days march one of short to Gooreapara one from thence to Hildabunie in the purgana of Suphur and ths of days march to the is called Suphur a very large regular village 4 short coss from the former

I informed you in my last of the Suphur Ameynugur Mhan Booon Zemindars having sent people to make submission in their names at Bulrampore these people I dismissed with panne to their respective masters ordering them meet me at it being a central place three coss from Ameynugur 4 from Mhan Booon 10 from Burra Booon and 10 from Chatna. The Raipore purgana is by much the best cultivated that I have yet seen in the jungles though in that part of it through which we marched there was a vast number of trees. On our arrival at Ghooreapara the Zemindar payed us a very good attendance but next day on our arriving at Hildabunie where he went with us he took a French [leave] of ceremonies

Barabhum in Manbhum

* Pach te

At Ghootagura arrived our peons from Chatna with a letter from the Zemindar complaining heavily of 5 companies of sepoys are encamped in his neighbourhood saying he cannot possibly miscarrow or bundhaskurrow while they are there, as his people have all left their houses and gone into the jungle; but by the intelligence of the peons..... a letter is a mere pretext, as there is very good discipline kept in that sepoy camp and none of them can go near the Zemindar's country, they remaining on the Paccet Raja's side. At first he threatened our peons, and talked high, but, I suppose, on hearing that we set out from Bulrampore or for certain intended going into that quarter, he altered his tone, and wrote the above. Our peons likewise were confined some time in the sepoy camp, being taken for hircaros, but some found means to convince the Commanding Officer, whose name they did not learn that they were on the Company's service, and were set at liberty.

I immediately redissmised peons to this fellow, and telling him that if he attended me at Saphur, and settled the revenues of his country with me on account of the Company, that I would probably get that army removed at some distance from him; at any rate that if he did not immediately come in, that I on the one side and the other army on the other would attack him, and thoroughly render him incapable of giving any trouble to the new Zemindar into whose hands I would give the purgana.

Having no news at all to be depended on from my people sent to Burra Booon, I this morning despatched people with another perwana putting him in mind how long he had hid the former, warning him immediately to attend here otherwise threatening him with military execution.

To prevent my business being interrupted by any of our own troops who may be stationed anywhere without..... knowledge, I have given certificates in English to the peons. In the heart of the province of Raipore is a Brahmin, who possesses ten villages. He is called in the country the Similia Raja. . . . his respects yesterday and of his own accord, proposed with ten people, which I agreed to. By advice I havetalking to the Fulkisma and Raipore wallas about... .. revenues, until our return. I hope you will appreciatedelay I shall, of necessity, be obliged to halt two . . . here, in which time, if possible, I'll do the business to be done peaceably. This Raja's uncle and brother's two diwans paid their compliments to-day. The Zemindar seems unwilling to come himself. However, I ask them to bring him to-morrow. His house is about an English mile from our camp.

With best respects and wishes for Mrs Graham and children, and compliments to the gentlemen,

I am, with real regard, Dear Sir,
Your earnest well-wisher and humble servant,
JOHN FEROUSSON.

P.S.—The jemindar of punes requests to know how he is to be payed for himself and people. I have also two of your hircaros who we sent to Fulkisma. Shall I draw for these people or only pay them to be reimbursed at Midnapore?

No 131.

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM, Resident at Midnapore.

(GENL. LETTER)

FORT WILLIAM

24th February 1767.

(Received 27th February 1767)

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 10th ultimo and 9th instant with the papers and accounts included

We direct that your will in future forward all Remittances on account of the Business to the Collector General instead of the Board carefully advising him thereof, and observing all directions he may think proper to give you

We are,

Sir,

Your loving Friends,

H VERELST.

RICHARD SMITH

CLAUD ROSSFLL

W ALDERSEY

THO KELSALL

CHARLES FLOYER

ALEX CAMIBELL

No 132.

To THE HON'BLE HENRY VERELST ESQ, ETC, ETC.

MIDNAPORE .

25th February 1767

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

This accompanies under escort of a havildar and 12 sepoy 17 chests of treasure, 150 bales of piece-goods, dispatched from hence this day, to be forwarded from Gongacolly upon the Company's matwas

I am, etc ,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 133.

To THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST ESQ, ETC., ETC.

MIDNAPORE

28th February 1767.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Enclosed I transmit to your Honor, etc , the invoices of 17 chests of treasure and 150 bales of piece-goods, which were dispatched this day to Gongacolly, to be forwarded thence to Calcutta.

I am, etc ,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 134

TO LIET. FERGUSON.

MIDNAPUR

25th February 1767

DEAR SIR,

I was this morning favor'd with your letters of the 22nd from Supur, but from the non-attendance of the Zemindar of that place and of the adjacent purgunna of Ameynagur, the backwardness of the Zemindar of Mhan Bhooon, the evasion and equivocation of the Zemindar of Chatna, and the total silence of the Zemindar of Barra Bhoon, I begin to apprehend that you have got amongst a set of people not so tractable or civilised as those situated near the Tanna. You must be the best judge whether there appears to be any justice in this conjecture, but, if you think there is, you should in my opinion lose no time in bringing or reducing them to terms. The fears of those people have seldom failed to be operated upon with success, but leaving them time to recollect themselves has been generally known to produce in them a degree of impiousness, self-sufficiency, and obstinacy. I beg you would not suppose or conceive from this that I mean or alledge that there has been any unnecessary delays committed—very far from it, your conduct hitherto both has, and deserves my entire approbation. I only mean if you find yourself now among people of a different and less docile disposition, that it may be necessary, perhaps, to alter your manner of conduct towards them. To one and all of them however, I would always advise you to give a previous warning, something of the nature which I directed to be sent to the Jargong Zemindar.

We are not acquainted nor can pretend to judge their object or intention of the party from Patchrat, or how far essential the service they are upon may be. There would appear a manifest impropriety in my making any request for their removal. But to prevent the risk of your contradicting one another's operations, I think it might not be amiss were you to advise the officer in general terms with the object of your instructions, and desire of him to interfere with or impede them as little as possible.

I remain, etc, etc

JOHN GRAHAM

No 135

CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,
Collector General

MIDNAPUR,

28th February 1767

SIR,

I had the pleasure to receive your very obliging favor of the 10th Instant, and I cannot but esteem myself greatly flattered, by the favourable opinion which you are pleased to entertain of me. Be assured that no endeavours of mine shall be wanting to deserve and maintain the continuance of such sentiments.

The Board's orders of the 24th Instant arrived with me too late to direct me in consigning to you the Treasury remitted with my General Letter of the 25th, but in future that method shall be carefully followed—And in every other branch of the Business the Board need not doubt of the most cheerful attention and proper reference being paid to your Directions and advice. As the Remittance of the Revenues are hence forward to be made to you I should apprehend the same propriety would direct the Treasury Account also to be transmitted to the Board thro' your Channel, and the Bills on the Paymaster General for the Military Disbursements, to be drawn to be payable to instead of the Resident and Council. I request you will let me know as soon as possible, how far I judge right in this conjecture that I may be guided accordingly in making up and transmitting the accounts of this month.

In my last I took the liberty to refer you to the accounts of the Adjustment of this years Revenues which were transmitted to Mr Verelst. But if there is any part thereof that requires further explanation, or any other Branch of the Business which you are desirous of becoming better acquainted with, I will cheerfully undertake as far as may be in my power to state them to you in the clearest light. In order to convey to you a general idea of the situation and present condition of the Province, I would beg leave to refer you to a full of the Journal of my last year's Circuit which is in possession Mr Verelst. I must frankly confess another view that I have in making this reference—namely—The hopes of obtaining from your Office a Copy of the Journal, for that which Mr Verelst has is the . . . originally perfected from loose Memorandums. If you will do me, the favour therefore to order a copy to be made for me I shall think myself much obliged to you as it may at least serve for a form to go by my future occasions.

As the season of cultivation is now approaching I shall in consequence of the Board's permission supply the Zemindars and Ryots from the Treasury with the advances I judge necessary to allot them in that Service, at the Company's established rate of Interest. The customary supplies for [Poolbundee] repairing the Dams Fen will also be required in the course of next month. Neither of these are articles of Expence to the Company as they are collected again bearing of the ensuing year and as they are articles in themselves so essentially necessary to the well being and prosperity of the Company, I cannot doubt that the supplying them will meet with your approbation.

Sometime ago a Detachment was ordered hence to reduce some trifling Zemindars to the Westward which included in the limits of this province continued to maintain themselves in a kind of independence. This Detachment has been attended with all the success I could wish. Five of the Zemindars having readily submitted and agreed to the payment of an equitable Revenue, and the rest being to all appearance disposed to follow their example. On this subject I shall advise you more at large. When those who still stand out have either been settled with or reduced I shall then also address Mr Verelst. In the mean time I shall be obliged to you, if you will just notice to him that the party has so far been successful.

I am with much esteem, &c,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No. 136.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, Esq.,

President and Governor and Gentleman of Council, at Fort William,

MIDNAPORE,

25th February 1767

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

Enclo ed I transmit to your Honor the Invoices of Seventeen Chests Treasure and One hundred and fifty Bales of piece Good, which were dispatched this day to Gongacolly to be forwarded from thence to Calcutta

I am with due respect etc , etc ,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 137

TO JOHN GRAHAM, MIDNAPORE,

CALCUTTA

4th March 1767

SIR

I have the pleasure to acknowledge your favour of the 28th ultimo received yesterday

The orders of the Board are meant to extend all remittances as well by bill as in specie, and that the Collector General shall be the channel thro' which the Treasury Accountants must come to the Board This I always conceived to be the spirit of their intentions and a conversation with the Governor this morning has confirm'd me in it, so that you will be pleased to look upon it as a standing rule

I know not but it may be called selfishness if I say I'm concerned to acquaint you that I have but bad accounts of your journal Either his Lordship has carried it with him or Mr Verelst has mislaid it but should it cast up on a search that is order d, you may depend on having a copy

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

CLAUD RUSSELL

No 138

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST,

President and Governor and Gentlemen of Council at Fort William,

MIDNAPORE

6th March 1767

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have received your Favor of the 26th Ultio and in obedience to your orders, the Remittances of Treasure and the Treasury Accounts, shall in future be forwarded to the Collector General, whose Directions relative to the Business of the Revenues shall at all times be duly attended to This

therefore only series to cover the Factory Accounts for the month of February, a particular Account of the Expense of building the Magazine in the Fort, a Statement of the Factory to be transmitted to Europe by the ship now under Dispatch

I have the Honour to be with Respect etc,
[JOHN GRAHAM.]

Account Particulars of the Expense of building a Midnapore in the Fort of Midnapore.

One month's wages to the following persons employed in making

BRICKS

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 4 Head Cooleys at Rs 4-6 each | ... | S. Rs | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 Mates .. " 3 8 " | ... | " | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| 360 Cooleys .. " 2-8 " | ... | " | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | 953 | 0 | 0 |
| Batta 11 per cent | ... | | 104 | 13 | 3 |
| | | | | 1,057 | 13 3 |
| 2,000 of Chunam ... at Rs 56 per 100 | Rs | 1,120 | 0 | 0 | |
| 300 of White Chunam at 30 seer per rupee | " | 400 | 0 | 0 | |
| 150 of Taggreo .. at Rs 4 per mds | " | 600 | 0 | 0 | |
| 3 of Copper .. " 67 " | " | 201 | 0 | 0 | |
| Wax Oil, &c., to materials to mix with the | | | | | |
| Copper .. | " | 30 | 0 | 0 | |
| Straw .. | " | 20 | 0 | 0 | |
| Jute, Rope, Twine &c. .. | " | 48 | 0 | 0 | |
| Baskets Tars &c, Utensils .. | " | 48 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | 2,467 | 0 | 0 | |
| Batta 8 per cent. .. | | 197 | 5 | 9 | |
| | | | 2,664 | 5 9 | |

WORKMEN'S WAGES

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-----|----|---|
| 1 Head Bricklayer 4 m/s at Rs 10 0 per m | Rs | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 Mate 3 " " 8 0 " | " | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 Bricklayers .. 8 " " 6-4 each | " | 375 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 " 1 " " 6-4 " | " | 31 | 4 | 0 |
| 4 Sawyers .. 4 " " 7-0 " | " | 112 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 Carpenters 1 " " 8 0 " | " | 56 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 " 1 " " 8 0 " | " | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Braziers .. 2 " " 5-0 " | " | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 " 1 " " 5-0 " | " | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 " .. 1 " " 5-0 " | " | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| | C. Rs | 722 | 4 | 0 |
| Batta 8 per cent | ... | 37 | 12 | 6 |
| | | 780 | 0 | 6 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 3 Head Cooleys .. | 3 m/s at Rs | 48 each | S Rs | 10 | 8 | 0 |
| 6 Mates | 3 " " | 38 " " | , | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| 150 Cooleys | 3 " " | 20 " " | " | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 1003 | 8 | 0 |
| | Batta 11 per cent | | | 110 | 6 | 0 |
| | | | | 1,113 | 14 | 0 |
| | Current Rupees | | | | 5616 | 7 0 |

Amount of the Estimate Arcot Rupees 5200 is 5616 *N B*—The Expenses of the Wood Work is all included under the Carpenters and Cooleys Wages

MIDNAPORE

28th February 1767

Errors Excepted

No 139

To J GRAHAM

МІАН БОІООН

6th March 1767

SIR

I have at length the pleasure to acquaint you that the five Zemindars and in and settled in the same manner as the preceding ones and if you consider the circumstance of my finding every individual of them with all their people and effects in the jungles I am hopeful it will reconcile my conduct to you whether you regard the time and manner of the settlement itself, for had I pursued them it would not probably have answered the end but to have pursued each separately would have been a work of time, and to have divided my force would have rendered my success doubtful as none of those Zemindars by our best intelligence have less than 2000 people in their pergunas whose trade is war

Notwithstanding I did not act hostilely, yet I may say my success was owing to my taking a proper advantage of their fears, and sometimes indeed by flattering their ambitions. However by these means we have settled I must communicate it as my opinion that some among them are not cordial and that unless a force remains in their neighbourhood to awe them that collecting the revenue from them will be a hard task. This Zemindar of Mihan Boioon in particular has resisted me on the strongest promises being made that I would not detain him, and on agreeing not to on business with him, no sooner was gone into the jungle again than he sent his diwan to thank me for my civil treatment of him, and offering me a considerable present, but at the same time absolutely denying to pay any revenue as he never had and as he had neither jumma nor country. His present I refused and ordered him to be acquainted that I was expressly come for revenue to be payed yearly, that if he'd not settle for that, I no private present would save him from being turned out.

of inducing him to comply made him retire further [into the jungle?] and not one of his people attended. On this I resolved to make [an attempt?] to seize him in the night, having resolved to take

one ...by one road myself, and send Hascombe with another.....another the meantime the writing to the officer at Chutna in your terms.. it out to be an order to him attacking the Chutna wala ... intended to give a good account of this Zemindar before I left ... the arrival of the Burra Boison Diwan of whom this politician had ... with great industry send the report of his gathering a force, and intended to hold out These two circumstances I may say made such an impression on this Zemindar that he the same day sent all his principal people to settle, but everything he does is with such distrust as he and his people remaining in the jungle that I expect he'll some day or other suffer for it

The silence and non-appearance of the Burra Boison Zemindar, I think I have reason to believe, was entirely owing to his inability from the distracted state of his country of paying a revenue equal to the extent and value of his jerguna. These distractions apart, the hircaro who brought his Diwan, reported that it was neither from fear nor disaffection that the Zemindar came not, but on account of real sickness

I have some reason to believe that my letter to the officer and the manner in which I sent it hastened the arrival of the Chutna Zemindar's uncle (for he himself is a youth), who after his arrival settled without much difficulty When all was settled I gave him a letter to the officer of the detachment acquainting him of their having settled with me, etc, and that as they assured me the people would not come out of the jungles while he remained, nor consequently the revenue be collected, that if it was consistent with the service he was on, it would be for the benefit of our common master's service, for him to remove his force out of the Chutna Perguna fully explaining that I pretended to nothing further than telling him that while he was there the Company's revenue could not be collected

I propose if nothing extraordinary happens, to set out in the morning for Suphur In my way back again, having the Raipore and Fulkisma affair still to settle it being deferred at the earnest request of Chandun Doss on our progress hither After which I propose according to the tenor of my instructions with all possible expedition to proceed towards .. the Zemindars of the other thana

The Zemindar of Bulrampore writes me that Oudanarm Sip Roy of Sanka Colea is dead He has several children ..

In this letter I have endeavoured to give you an account of everything that has occurred since I did myself the pleasure of writing last, and I beg you, you'll excuse my some day's silence, as I could have wrote nothing satisfactory in that interval I do myself the pleasure of underwriting a sketch of the settlements of the five zemindaries for your immediate [inspect-] ion as I will take an after opportunity of giving you .. account of Tanna of Bulrampore tashees at once.

Allah Sicca Rupees

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Suphur Parguna, Annual Revenue | 54 0 0 |
| Ameynagar Parguna, Annual Revenue | 311 0 0 |
| Burra Boison Parguna, Annual Revenue | 441 0 0 |
| Mhan Boison Parguna, Annual Revenue | 316 0 0 |
| Chutna Parguna, Annual Revenue | 879 11 0 |

[Usual termination]

Total ... 2,496 10 0

No 140

TO JOHN GRAHAM, ESQ

CALCUTTA
7th March 1767

SIR,

The information I am favoured with of the reduction of the Zemindars gives me great pleasure, and I hope the party will meet with the same success throughout, and finish their expedition before the setting in of the rainy season

The omitting to mention Mr Pearces' appointment has been owing to the hurry we have been in occasioned by the dispatch of the Europe ship, but it shall be taken notice of in our next General Letter to your Factory

It is with pleasure I can acquaint you that we have despatched the greatest parts of our Europe cargo already The *Nottingham*, who will sail in about a week will almost compleat the dispatch, and what little remains will be sent by the *Mercury*, who will depart, about the end of the month. Our investment this year will exceed 52 lakhs, other ships sailing so early in the season will probably have the advantage of favourable winds, and run very little risk in this passage

I am, Sir, etc,
H VERELST

No 141.

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
9th March, 1767.
(Recd 10th March, 1767.)

SIR.

We have received your letters dated 28th ultimo and 6th instant with the papers enclosed

We have thought proper to appoint Mr Charles Stuart assistant at Burdwan, and Mr John Pearce to Midnapore

We are, Sir,
Your Loving Friends
H VERELST.
RICHARD SMITH
CLAUD RUSSELL.
W ALDERSET
THO KELSALL
CHARLES FLOYER
ALEX CAMPBELL.

No 142

To J GRAHAM

CAMP NEAR DAMARA

9th March 1767

SIR,

The answer to the letter I wrote to the officer at Chatna makes it necessary that I should send you a copy of what I wrote as well as the original of the answer, as I cannot take on myself to take one step more in that affair without your particular orders, at the same time that I must re inform you (as the enclosed says otherwise) that the Chatna Zemindar's uncle settled in the most regular manner with me for a yearly tushees from the purgana to be paid into the Midnapore Cagerie [Cutchery] for the behoof of the Hon'ble Company, and, as he did this at Mhan Boicon I, accordingly to the tenor of my instructions, had no occasion to go into his country. The reason of my writing was because the Divan frankly told me that, while the sepoy's remained in that country, he could not collect a rupee. The following is a copy of my letter —

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING A DETACHMENT OF SEPOYS NEAR CHATNA

SIR,

I esteem it incumbent on me as concerning the interest of our common masters to acquaint you that the Zemindar of Chatna has settled with me to pay the Hon'ble Company a yearly adequate revenue, and of course, is to be considered under our protection.

I hope, therefore, it will suit with your instructions and inclination to consider him in that light, and not only avoid distressing him but also if possible remove from his country, as he protests the Company's revenue cannot be collected while you are so near to him as his people will remain in the jungles. He will be answerable for any effects you may have which you can't conveniently take away. If you should esteem it consistent with the service you are on to move on the receipt of this, I hope you will avoid construing this letter to be either unnecessary or improper, as my motive is the good of the service in general, and properly executing the particular service I was ordered on from Midnapore. You will also, I dare say, consider both in any steps you may judge convenient to be taken in consequence of this address.

I am,

Your most obedient and, etc.

JOHN FERGUSON,

Ensign commanding a party of sepoy's

from Midnapore

One sentence in this letter requires explanation and I marked it for that purpose. The effects meant here belonged to Pachhat Raja. If the Divan of Chatna said that they could not carry them off. The answer to this letter I enclose and leave the whole to your judgment and determination and I

hope that if the writing of the above letter was wrong, you'll advise me how to atone for my transgression

With regard I am, Sir,
Your most obedient and most
humble servant,
J FERGUSSON

No 143.

To CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQ, COLLECTOR GENERAL

MIDNAPORE
10th March 1767

SIR

I was doly favor'd with your letter of the 4th instant, and enclosed I have the pleasure to transmit you the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of February, together with a bill of exchange upon the Military Paymaster-General for CRs 11,100

A number of the ryots of the Purganna of Cossijurrah I understand have gone to Calcutta to complain against Rajah As I heard that their applications were particularly directed to the Governor and was writing him last night upon other business, I took occasion to mention that circumstance also, requesting that he would order them to return to their duty in the Province and prefer their complaints here at Midnapore A copy of the Paragraph of my letter I now enclose for your perusal and entreat that you will also represent the propriety of my request if it appears to you in that light Had I not waited for the Treasury account I should have wrote you to this purpose last night at the same time that I address'd the Governor

I have the Honour etc.,
[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 144

To J. GRAHAM

[BULRAMPORE].
12th March 1767

DEAR SIR,

We this day arrived once more in the Tanna of Bulrampore, all in health excepting cold caught by repeated violent storms, which we had in the hilly country we came from In this letter I enclose copies of three Bengal chits, one more letter from Captain Upton, the reading of which will be sufficient to convince you that I could not, without widely deviating from my instructions, comply with the contents of it without your orders As the letter itself and the Bengal chit will explain the subject to you I need insist no further The second Bengal chit is a copy of what was produced by the Raipore people when we desired them to settle I saw the original it had the initials of Mr Goodwin's name

For the Raipore Pergunah, by which I mean Raipore, Fulkisima, and other two small places belonging to two persons call'd Samuleaher brothers, there is a tushees settled of 1,600 rupees pay'd thro' the hands of the Bougrawalla into the Burdewan cash, but is at present ill collected, and I believe a small dividend reaches the Company's Treasury As I mentioned before, all that tract lies quite near the Tanna and, of course, the tushees, which could easily be increased to 3000 allah siccas would also be collected without difficulty, supposing a force to remain here I have in consequence, of your former order, got all these people with me, except the Fulkisima Zemindar, who is not arrived in order to increase the yearly revenue for the Company, but in seeing that, while it is pay'd through the hands of this Bougra Zemindar, the Company will not reap the advantage of it, I will not put it into execution until I hear from you which I expect will be on the receipt of this, as it will reach me here, having two more days of business to do before I can leave the Tanna whence I propose going directly against the Gatseela Zemindar (if you approve) through the Jumbune Pargana, it being the nearest, and, by the best intelligence the best road, having sent off his perwanas in such a manner that I will have his answer at Jumbune by which he is desired to meet me at the Tanna of Janpore, which if he refuse, I shall march immediately against him, it being only ten coes, whereas from the Tanna it is twenty

The third Bengal chit is a copy of a letter sent from Bishnapore to the Ameynagar Zemindar signed by Captain Hadley and initials I directed a letter to be wrote to the Ameynagar Zemindar to answer the above in this manner I have not got an elephant nor any other of Domidar Sing's effects If you send people into my country to destroy and plunder it, I who have settled with the Phousdar of Midnapore to pay a yearly revenue to the Company, will complain to him and make no doubt of receiving redress

Captain Upton's two harraro, who brought the last letter, remain here two days until your answer arrives I having another sealed chit here for the Zemindar of Chatnapore from him

With best wishes, etc, I remain, etc,

J FERGUSON

No 115

TO LIEUTENANT FERGUSON

MIDNAPORE

12th March 1767

SIR,

I have received your favours of the 6th instant, the first containing an account of the settlement which you have effected with five Zemindars of Sagar, etc, the second transmitting me a copy of your letter to the Officer Commanding the Patchaet party, and his answer As the revenues which the Zemindars have engaged to pay exceed the sums at which their countries are rated in the Kings books at the same time that they serve as an ample and incontestable acknowledgment of their dependence on this Province we have certainly no cause than to be otherwise than satisfied

with the adjustment, especially when their present circumstances and situation with your reasons for accepting of their terms are consider'd In time, however, by attending to keep them at once awed and protected I should hope that this stipulation may be considerably increased upon

Captain Upton, in his answer to your letter, appears to have placed too much confidence in the informations of the people with whom he has intercourse and to have drawn from thence too hasty conclusions His dignity also appears taken great offence, where I think it is pretty evident that there could possibly be none meant It is a pity that circumstances of this nature should occur in the execution of one common service, especially under a well regulated Government of which all the members and dependents must be sensible that no operations can be carried on without the sanction of its authority Conscious that you are yourself regularly and sufficiently authorised to execute the service you are at present upon (altho' Captain Upton seems to doubt it) you might certainly proceed agreeably to your instructions without paying any regards to Captain Upton's caveats, but, as I think this would be acting too much upon his own plan, I cannot approve it I would advise you, therefore, to write again to Captain Upton, or the officer who may command at Patchaet, explaining to him that you think there was no cause to take offence at your former letter, at least there was certainly none intended that you are also detached under regular orders from the Governor of Calcutta thro' the channel of the Chief of Midnapore to reduce the Zemindars possessing the jungles to the westward of Midnapore and which hitherto supported a kind of independence notwithstanding they were avowedly subordinate to the Province their rents being entered in the Midnapore Cutchery books and most of them having always paid a peshcush or tribute of acknowledgment, that the Chatna Zemindar is one of those and that, however adjacent or blended his districts may be with those of Patchaet, they are actually out of the limits of Bengal have always been comprehended in Soubah Orissa and, till of late years paid a regular tribute to the Phousdar of Midnapore that agreeably to your instructions therefore, you had concluded a settlement with his uncle (the Zemindar himself being a minor) to pay an annual revenue to the Company at the Midnapore Cutchery and that you trust this explanation will not only acquit you of having intended any improper behaviour but in fact claims his attention to support the settlement you have made against any designs of the Patchaet people to usurp possession of the Zemindar's country If this explanation does not produce the desired effect, we must in short appeal to the decision of superiors In the meantime you should write to the Zemindar directing him peremptorily to desist from molesting the party, as Captain Upton writes he is guilty

I have just now received your favour from Bulrampore with the three Bengal notes, but the other letter you mention to have received from Captain Upton was omitted to be enclosed I do not conceive, however, that it can contain anything but what the explanation, which I have herein recommended to you to make must sufficiently answer, especially as it appears evident by the Bengal note (which is wrote in the name and under the seal of Sircar) that he is misled by the designs and informations of the people

The answer which you have directed the Ameynagar Zemindar to make to Captain Hadley is very proper, and say he will give him no further trouble

The Raipore and Fulkuma districts doubtless depend on the Province of Burdwan, but it appears somewhat mysterious and inconsistent that they should reject our assistance for obtaining from them an increase. I will write and explain the matter to Mr. Goodwin and shall send you further directions when I receive his answer. In the interim, I recommend you to proceed immediately upon the plan you propose for the reduction of the Gatsela Zemindar.

J GRAHAM

No 146

To J GRAHAM, Resident at Midnapore

CALCUTTA
13th March 1767.

Sir,

I was yesterday favoured with your letter of the 10th inclosing the Treasury accounts for last month and a bill of exchange for Rs 11,000 on the Military Paymt General which bears acceptance

Should the ryotts of Co-sijura Pargunnah again appear at Calcutta, your may depend upon their being immediately sent back to proffer their complaint to you, a rule I shall constantly keep up to on every such occasion, as most consistent with your station and your justice

I remain, etc.,

CLAUD RISSELL.

No 147

To LIEUTENANT FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE
13th March 1907

Sir,

I received last night your note enclosing the second letter from Captain Upton, but as I suppose it does not require any more particular answer than what is contained in my letter of yesterday, to it, therefore I refer you, and return you Captain Upton's letter enclosed.

In my letter yesterday I omitted to mention to you the settlement of the talook composed of sundry villages around the Tanna and said by the statement to be possessed by one Achubnarrain. I must now recommend that point to you, if possible, before you leave Bulrampore, if not after your return from the reduction of the Janpore Tanna

I approve of the succession of the Sanhacoolea's son for the same reasons that I gave you in the case of the Jargong Zemindar

I am, etc, etc,

JOHN GRAHAM

No 146

To J GRAHAM

TANNA BULRAMPORE

13 h March 1767

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of writing you yesterday and the day before from hence, besides the letters I wrote from Mhan Borioon and Bambura, but as to-morrow we send hence a harcaro, and some punes, with the treasure, I would by no means lose this opportunity of writing you I yesterday morning sent off the Gatseela Zemindar's perwanas by two harcaros and two punes, meaning at that time to have set out from hence to-morrow, by which means I should have reached Jambunie by the time the messengers returned, but hearing nothing from you in answer to mine of the 11th instant and having all the 5 Zemindars of the Raipore side all on the I am obliged to put off my march one day more

My two Gatseela harcaros etc on this day return'd, being stopt a coss and a half from Jambunie in the Gatseela Purgana by a guard of about 150 bowmen My instructions to them were, if they were stopt, to tell the people their business, and assure them that if they were not allowed to go on they would return to your naib who sent them, and [who] was on the road with a force, and in consequence of which he would hear no terms from them, but proceed to drive them out of the purgana, and give it to better disposed people When they were stopt, they acted according to instructions and were answered that if they went the Jaupore Tanna road they would not be obstructed but by that road would allow none to go into their country to which they answered that as they expected more respect to be paid to the Phousdar's servants than to be stopt, but that when they returned it would be with a force that would overcome all such obstacles, penetrate into the heart of his country without asking questions So that it is probable this fellow continues obstinate However, according to your general hint, when I arrive at Jambunie I'll send one more message before I fall on If on our arrival at Jambunie, I find that the road from his country is tolerable, but if it should prove jungly and narrow so as that I cannot have the proper use of my guns, I propose taking no notice at all of these, but according to my general instruction* proceeding to the Tanna and reducing him In course this intention is owing to the pretty certain information I have of his having a considerable force and I would by all means if possible put my success beyond a doubt when I do attack him

Thus far had I wrote last night before 8 o'clock when the man whom I despatched the 12th arrived and told that a harcaro from you was 3 coss off on the way I waited till eleven no harcaro, and now have got up at three this morning to despatch the treasure By closing this letter he has not yet arrived I make no doubt if he is yours that on his return of your order [him] to be punished as he deserves This goes by another

[Usual termination,]

JOHN FERGUSON

No 149

To J GRAHAM

BULRAMPORE TANNA

13th March 1767

SIR,

I write this to go along with 1,000 audit rupees of which 550 is in cash, and 450 in bonds being part of the Company's treasure collected from those Zemindars who have already settled with the Company to pay tutees for their Purganahs. A Bengala account which I am told is the regular manner of transaction in these matters attends the treasure

With regard, I am etc,

JOHN FERGUSSON

No 150

To J GRAHAM

TANNA BULRAMPORE

14th March 1767

SIR,

I have this moment received your packet, but the answering of your other favour I must delay, as I am preparing everything for going off in the morning

To Captain Upton I wrote in the terms you suggested adding from that explanation he would at once see the impropriety of my complying with the contents of his 2nd letter, and I accordingly sent the two Bengal charts enclosed in his

The talook I did not omit to make particular inquiry about when last here, but all the answer I could get was that it had been incorporated with the two purgunas 50 years ago, and this too after I had settled for these purgunas, viz, Ramgur and Sankacoolas. In yours of yesterday, you mention it as your opinion that if we continue to awe and protect these people that the revenue may be considerably increased. In this opinion I entirely join with you, and if I may be allowed to judge from the face of the country and appearance of the people, very considerably too were they somewhat civilised, and this more particularly in the western purgunas. The Tanidair has engaged to send this letter and the amount of both the bills on the Sergeant

With regard, I am etc,

J. FERGUSSON

No 151

To LIEUTENANT FERGUSSON

MIDNAPORE

17th March 1767.

SIR

I have received your two letters of the 13th and one of the 14th. With the former was received the chalan of Rs 1000 which shall be brought to account when the bonds are recovered

I think you judge very properly in determining to proceed with caution against the Gatsela Zemindar. As you advance towards his country, I imagine you will be able to obtain more certain intelligence of his strength and intentions: when, if you esteem it necessary, I shall expect to hear from you.

The merits of Uchubnarrain's talook, which you are informed is incorporated in the Ramgur and Sankacooler's purgunas, may properly be enquired into more exactly when you return again to the Tanna, because if the Zemindars have already possessed themselves of it, it will at least be an argument for demanding an increase from them in the ensuing year.

I am, etc., etc.,

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 152

To J. GRAHAM.

JAMBUIE

11th March 1767

SIR,

This day I received two letters from you. The former favour I shall answer in a few words: viz. that this day at noon, immediately on receipt of yours I sent off the tent, and that (as I imagine that won't properly suffice for your bottle-conna) there is too in the stores an oil marque which I should imagine would also be useful.

Having principally by the means of Mogul Ray Zemindar of Jathunia got a tolerable account of his force, disposition, and the route, I think I can depend, as far as any person can in such cases on being able to force his intrenchments, and make my way good into his fort. In this opinion I am seconded by all my little army who are in very good health and high spirits, seem sufficiently satisfied with their Commander's abilities, etc. This day I halted here for a variety of reasons. That which you suggested to me in the close of yours on the head of retreating occurred and was a principal reason together with a desire of further intelligence not to run headlong and imprudently on before I had settled a plan of operation, as also the replenishing of my byzar and recollecting my provincials concurred to induce to this measure.

Govindram Boxie, who I look on as a good soldier, has retained near 200 of his people besides 33 horse, Cootickram 20. Goupenet's people have increased 50 to-day. Colliapora to 50, Mogul Ray with 150 men attends me of his own accord, and is likely to get in favour. The Jambunie Zemindar attends us with 100 men. These two neighbours of the Gatsela Zemindar being his natural enemies and of long standing, I do not doubt will take this opportunity of gratifying their revenge.

Now as I am clear in my own breast that neither motives of interest or ambition sway me in the resolution I have at present taken but that I have acted on mature deliberation, you who always have been my friend, will I am sure on this occasion be my advocate to the world, if the event should render my judgment or discretion suspected.

His nephew who resides at Burra Boison, I have not been able to induce to take any part in the affair at present, nor even to come to me, my people put it to the account of his inability to form any faction in the country.

You may depend on hearing from me very frequently, if intelligence can be conveyed after we penetrate into the heart of his country.

The deep impression which that warm style in your letter makes on me it would be vain to attempt to express. This, however, I must add, that I am conscious to myself of a daily applying to the Supreme Source of all good for the success and prosperity of yourself and family. With my best respects to Mrs Graham and children I am with real regard, etc., etc.,

JOHN FERGUSON

No 153

To J. GRAHAM, Esq

CAMP, LARGE PLAIN NEAR BIND VILLAGE,
11 COSS FROM GATSEELA FORT

17th March 1767

DEAR SIR,

I last night did myself the... of acquainting you that, by means of Mogal Ray, Zemindar of Jatbunia, I had made myself master of the strength, situation, etc., of the Zemindar of Gatseela's army, and had also been able to plan a route by which I had a good prospect of making my way good to his fort

In pursuance of this plan, and on strength of intelligence from this same person, I understood that a force of about 2000 had entrenched themselves and made a parapet of palisadoes in a plain about 3 coss from Jambunia, having the channel of a nulla and a jungle in their rear. Having resolved last night to attack this force at break of day, if possible, I set out at one o'clock in the morning, resolving to march slowly and circumspectly, it being very clear moonlight, but such were the length of these cosses and such the badness of the roads having all of them in his pargana to make them as we marched, and also two considerable nullas to pass, which they only abandoned as we approached that, instead of arriving at daylight, we were only able to reach this tanna of his at 10 o'clock. The enemy soon abandoned their post, and betook themselves into the channel of the nulls, with a view, I believe, of flanking near the stream, but we were guarded against this as well as against an ambuscade, which they had laid on the banks of a tank to the left of the rear, for having examined the ground on all sides, before the onset, I resolved to divide my force in such a manner as to attack them in these places at once, which I accordingly did, and my force drove the enemy before them clear out of the jungle and over a large plain into the village of Bind where about 200 of them endeavoured to make a stand to no purpose. With regard to my troops, I must say that the seapoys behaved very bravely but not like disciplined troops, for that party which I sent under the command of Sergeant Bascombe to storm the nulls in the jungle, broke at once, and ran on without keeping any order, and it was with much difficulty I could keep the small party with myself and with the guns from running

after the rest into the jungle, when they found there was nothing to do in the trenchments which were abandoned.

Mogal Roy has got a great name among the seapoys. The number of the slain on the enemy's side, I have not been able to learn yet, it being in the jungle that the execution was done; but three heads have been found that the guns had shot off, but of my men there is not one so much as hurt, not even a provincial

[Usual Greetings.]

JOHN FERGUSON, who has an immense headache, so hopes inaccuracies will be excused.

No. 154.

TO JOHN GRAHAM, Esq

CALCUTTA,

18th March 1767.

(Received 19th March 1767.)

SIR,

I have received your favor of the 9th instant, and have ordered a letter to be written to the Zemindar of Tamlook in consequence of your representation, which I shall enclose to you.

None of the Cossijurah ryots have yet been to complain to me, and you may be assured that had any complaints been made, I would first have inquired whether they had represented their case to your, before I would have when the least cognizance of it

You may take Calcutta in your way if agreeable, and I shall be glad to have an opportunity of a conversation with you.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

H. VERELST.

No. 155.

TO J. GRAHAM.

CALCUTTA,

19th March 1767.

SIR,

Having yesterday learnt that some of the Cossijurah ryots were at Calcutta, I had three of them brought to me this morning, and ordered them to return immediately to lay their complaints before you. I have sent a peon along with them to see that they do not trifle with us.

I am, etc.,

CLAUD RUSSELL.

(Collector General)

| | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| Last year the Raja asked from the Ryots as Māngūn | | |
| 7 annas for Bega amounting to Sicca | ... | Rs. 12,000 |
| This year he has taken from some 6, from some 5, | | |
| amounting to Sicca | | .. 10,000 |

No. 156

To J. GRAHAM

CAMP AT THE VILLAGE CHOUKLA

19th March 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you yesterday on the event of driving the enemy out of their tanna, as it is called, and taking possession of the village of Bind. This morning, at broad daylight, we marched hence, and I went about three-quarters of a coss uninterrupted, but on arriving at the village Mundalackura, intelligence arrived from the front, that the jungle in the front of the village was spread over with chewars, on which I halted a little, and I ordered one gun and a small party of sepoy to advance, dispersing the whole in such a manner as to be able to support that party or to detach to rear or flanks, according as the enemy might make their appearance. On seven rounds of grape and two or three platoons from the sepoy, they retired, having indeed first endeavoured to alarm us on all sides but to no purpose, as their shot from the jungle would not reach, and they would not come in sight. During this short skirmish one scapoy received a shot through the muscles of the thigh. Finding the enemy determined not to maintain any battle with us I immediately disposed my troops to maintain a running fight, and march pretty smartly at the same time, by strengthening my rear, ordering 20 sepoy on each flank, and endeavouring, but to no great purpose, to flank the whole with my provincials. However, we succeeded very well, keeping the enemy so much at bay, that they were not able to make any impression on any quarter, though they repeatedly attempted it, especially in the rear. They indeed wounded five or six chewars and camp adherents on our side, and a fine old fellow of a horseman of Govindram's had his leg broke by a matchlock ball which I have set again, and I hope will do well, though the doctor will say that a gun shot wound and fracture is a very difficult case. Thus we maintain for three coss, when we arrived at a very large plain, well watered, near a village named Choukla, where I had before planned to halt, as there was no other halting place within 5 coss. Here we have the enemy alongside of us in the jungle, but they dare not come out, though we have distressed them greatly by taking possession of four fine tanks in this plain, and guarding them in such a manner that they cannot get a drop of water but at the hazard of their lives, though it is the only water within 3 coss by my intelligence. To-morrow I propose marching in the same manner, by which we'll be on the way half the day, it being 5 jungle coss.

[Usual compliments]

8 o'clock night.

J. FERGUSON

No 157.

To J. GRAHAM, Esq

GATEKIA FORT:

22nd March 1767

SIR,

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that I am in possession of Gatekila Fort, after having fought my way to it for 16 coss through a thick

jungle, where the enemy took every method of interrupting our march, except that of a drawn battle, which they only attempted in their intrenchment near the village of Puru about 4 coss from Jambunie, the first day that we attacked them from their strong intrenchment there and from the channel of a nulla in the jungle to the rear of it, we soon drove them, and, on all the march hither, they never attempted to make a stand in other places, until to-day as we approached their fort.

During the march I soon saw that if we halted always on their approach that our march would be greatly interrupted and tedious. I therefore resolved to strengthen my front and rear considerably, and flank the whole on each side, and to march on without ever halting, leaving to the rear guards to maintain the engagement with the enemy, and proceed at the same time, taking care to reinforce them if pressed hard from the main body, and I believe I owe my success to that resolution.

Yesterday a vakiel arrived from him who said he was sent to make the Raja's acknowledgment, and settle for the rent. On questioning him I found that he was empowered to give Rs 5 000 to buy me and my army off from proceeding any further. This not being business, I explained to him for what purpose I was come and told him that if his zemindar would pay the Company such a yearly revenue that I would forgive him notwithstanding his great fault. He immediately despatched people to the Zemindar, who returned no answer, and accordingly we proceeded. On this day's march they fought very warmly showing themselves a good deal first in front and then in the rear, but were not able to make any impression. About 9 o'clock we made his fort, which we found in flames, and his people all round in small parties, in the jungle on the outside to attack us in the rear, but finding that we discovered them by a gun and a company being sent against them, the people within abandoned the fort by a gate to which I judge it imprudent to send any part of my forces, as the smoke of the fire blew directly on it.

Notwithstanding that the fire had destroyed the most valuable things of which there must have been an immense quantity yet we arrived time enough to save a great quantity of grain, which gives me great satisfaction, as otherwise we should have been in distress soon for want of provisions, as they have burned their villages as well as fort on the way.

The Raja, with a numerous, though vanquished army, has retired into a hill about a coss distant, he having guards all the way to the fort on every side in the jungle so that it will require your orders towards my conducting myself properly in what remains to be done. There are none of the Zemindars along with me who will undertake the charge of this purgana, notwithstanding (from the forward, any barbarous conduct of the Run-away) the probability of gaining over the country people. From his nephew I have not so much as heard, though one would imagine he ought to have endeavoured to conciliate my favour so I can be no judge whether he is in any respect equal to the charge. I shall therefore expect your orders respecting the settlement of the purgana while, in the meantime, I shall lose no favourable opportunity which may offer, whether to distress the enemy or to make an advantageous settlement for the Company, if this fool should repent of his obstinacy.

During the whole march there was killed one beldar and one chewar of the Jambunee Zemindar's one horseman shot through the leg and the leg broke, 5 sepoys wounded, of which three is slight and two shot through the muscles of the leg by ball one of which is my orderly, who poor fellow, got it to day while close by me. In this day's engagement he had a piece of cannon planted in the jungle flanking the road, but it did no execution, the shot flying too high.

It now remains to excuse myself for not writing before, the reason was that I could get none of the Zemindars to undertake conveying it safe, and on that account I desisted. This goes by means of the Jambunee Zemindar, who, if he had behaved all along as he did the first day, I should have recommended

[Compliments]

J FERGUSSON

No 158

To J GRAHAM, Esq

GATSEELA FORT

22nd March 1767.

SIR,

I last night did myself the pleasure of addressing . on the event of taking possession of Gatseela Fort, but as there is some difficulty in conveying intelligence it is possible it may not reach. I deem it proper to write this be sent by another channel, viz, of the Jambunee Zemindar, as yesterday's was of the Jambunee's

In yesterday's letter I gave a full account of our march, etc, and the taking possession of the Fort. Hoping that letter reached I shall only here say that after forcing our way 16 coss through a thick jungle we at last reached his fort, which the enemy abandoned after very little resistance, but setting it on fire

The most valuable effects in the Fort with which it abounded are all burnt. However I have the pleasure to tell you that we were able to save a great quantity of grain which to me is a principal article, as otherwise I should soon have been obliged to abandon my conquest for want of provisions, for on my march they burned their villages, so that we had no supply since leaving Jambunee. We should have been able to have extinguished the fire had there been water in the Fort, but there are on only some small ponds, I think draw wells, which were scarce sufficient for the purpose of quenching the thirst of our army, having marched a coss and a half without water. This day I send a party of sepoys into the jungle about a mile with the cattle to a fine tank of water, as the enemy have a strong guard there, and also one hundred coolies with two handies slung for a supply. In last night's letter, I acquainted you of my manner of marching, by which means I saved my men greatly, having lost from the whole only two, a chewar and beldar, and five sepoys, and about 20 other adherents wounded.

I shall now make it my business to explain to you, as far as I can my sentiments on the head of resetting this purgana

It is my opinion that this runaway Zemindar ought by no means to be harkened to if he should propose the largest terms because there is no dependence to be put in him he paying no regard to treaties, nay, did he give hostages, it would find him no further than when he is immediately awed by a force. He also is a great nuisance to his neighbours constantly disturbing them, so that it would not be a popular step in the eyes of those who have not only settled for their own country, but also helped to reduce him. Moreover, by all account I hear he is such a barbarous monster, that he is by no means to be countenanced by a civilised nation, that is, if the current reports are true.

From allowing the neighbouring Zemindars to talk over the matter in my presence, without seeming to take any notice I find that the most probable method is that of setting up his nephew, as he will be able to detach a great many, if not all from his uncle. If he should be able to detach all, as they say there is a very great chance for, then he will also answer the Company's demands without any further trouble, but if he should not be, then a party of my force will be necessary to support his party till he gains strength. Should this nephew be unwilling or unable to form any party, and to pay a proper revenue then I believe, nay, I know that Mogul Roy of Jatbunia will undertake to pay the Company's revenue and retain the pargana if supported by a small party of sepoys to garrison the fort, but whether he is more ambitious than wise I can't say.

Our Midnapore Zemindars all say that they would not take a present of the country, so that there is only one other alternative and that a poor one for the Company that of levelling the fort and burning and destroying his country in *terrorem* to our other new subjects and proceeding to the reduction of the remainder of the Tanna and then if you judge proper, to return and lay on the country in such a manner as to oblige the heads of it to abandon their infatuated master.

Thus, Sir from being on the spot I have presumed to declare my sentiments freely for though his army cannot withstand mine, yet they are numerous, and I dare say against people of their own caste would still endeavour to maintain the country. If I can obtain any intelligence, I shall not fail to distress them still in their lurking holes if I can do it to advantage. If I can find the channel of intelligence to and from you can be carried on easily you may depend on hearing from me daily, but, if difficult, only on extraordinary occasions.

[Compliments]

JOHN FERGUSON.

No 159

TO J GRAHAM

GATSKELA FORT

24th March 1767

SIR

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you twice from this place to inform you of my conduct etc, on the march, and success against the fort, as also freely communicating my sentiments on the head of resettling the

purgana, which I hope you will not be displeased at. In consequence of further intelligence and distant negotiation with the country people, and of having formerly consulted you as head, I have now taken a bolder step, viz, that of sending my purwana to his nephew, who resides at Barra Boron, inviting him to come and take the purgana from me, and pay a just revenue for it to the Company, that I made him the first offer on account of his connection, but notwithstanding, if he would not pay as large a revenue as any other that he should not have it.

This step I took in consequence of assurances from the country people by means of neutral persons who attended me that, if I set up the nephew for Zemindar, they would all abandon the Runaway and contribute their utmost towards enabling the new Raja to answer our demands.

I hope, therefore, that you will approve of the step I have taken, as by the uncertainty of the channel of intelligence remaining uninterrupted, nay, that is so now, the waiting for your orders would occasion a great loss of time, especially as I believe that, when a new Raja is set up, he will require our presence for some short time. In hopes that you will approve, I shall expect your answer containing full instructions regarding the transacting this affair as you would wish it to be done.

With respects and compliments as usual, I remain with real regard

Sir

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

J FERGUSON

No 160

TO JOHN GRAHAM, ESQ

CALCUTTA,
26th March 1767
(Recd 26th do)

SIR,

According to your desire I enclose you a letter for the Zemindar of Tamlook, which I hope may have a proper effect upon him. I am etc

H VERELST

No 161

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQ,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPUR
25th March, 1767

SIR,

I have rec'd your favor of the 13th and 19th instant with the last arrived the Cossijurah Ryots. As I am now however on [the eve?] of my departure, I have only been able to discourse with Mr Vansittart on the subject of their Complaints. The circumstances of them will be most particularly enquired into from the ryots themselves by that gentleman, and he will advise you hereafter.

Having this day deliver'd over to Mr Vansittart charge of the Factory, I have the honour to transmit you enclosed a General Account current of the Revenues to the end of the month of February When money has been collected since will be brought to account in March, to transmit you further an account of the Teshkees settle I for the districts in the Western Jungles that have already submitted to Ierguson's party you will observe thereby that there has been a large increase obtained when compared with their former peak—I should still hope that we need only consider this settlement in the .. . work, which may be in time improved and produce a very handsome [revenue?]

Some time on Saturday I shall hope to have the pleasure of paying you my respects in person, In the interim I am, etc

[JOHN GRAHAM]

No 162

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

GATSEELA FORT.

28th March 1767

SIR,

My addressing you on this occasion is in consequence of a letter of Mr Graham's bearing date the 23rd instant which I have this day received desiring that after the 24th you should be addressed on all public subjects, as you by that time would have the charge of the Province Permit me, Sir, before I enter on the head of business tho' a stranger to your person, to congratulate you on this occasion and to offer my best wishes that you may be happy and successful Allow me also to hope that if (as shall be my constant endeavour), my conduct while under you should be inclinable to your sentiments, that you will bestow on me some share of that favour which I so amply experienced under Mr Graham My letters dated 22nd, 23rd and 24th and addressed to Mr Graham in his public capacity, I acquainted him of our success in this purgana and also that after I had taken possession of the Fort, I had, in consequence of being pretty well acquainted with his sentiments before, sent my perwanna to the nephew promising him the purgana if he would pay a yearly revenue to the Company for it

I had intelligence that the former Zemindar had gone to some distance and found the country people disposed to remain quiet under any Zemindar that should be appointed I on that account avoided proceeding to any other part of the purgana in a hostile manner, being well assured that the Zemindar is so far deserted by his subjects as that he cannot pretend to act in an offensive manner However if intelligence that can be relied on should put it in my power to make an immediate attack on him, I certainly will not omit it The messengers who were sent to his nephew and only near relation—at present a resident in the Burra Boiron Purgana—are not yet arrived, and if they were I am at a stand until your instructions arrive. At the same time that I will presume with you, according to the indulgence of the former Chief, of making an advantageous settlement for the Company, when it appears that I should not hear in the interim The only distress which we feel here is sympathy for the few of us who suffered in the different kirmishes, whom I would willingly send to Midnapore, could

I do it without a strong detachment, as I have neither medicines nor time to attend to them properly myself. Provision^d, that is rice d^l, and salt, we have sufficient for 12 months, but all the ghee was burnt in the general conflagration we found the fort in, and which we could not extinguish for want of water

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient most humble servant

JOHN FERGUSSON

No 163

To GEORGE VANSITTANT, Esq Resident at Midnapore

GATSFILA FORT

29th March 1767

SIR,

I yesterday did myself the pleasure of addressing you but as a circumstance of great importance, as to me it appears, has since happened, I have not a moment delayed communicating it. Since my having taken possession of the Fort I have employed all my time in detaching the country people from the rebellious Zemindar, and in getting intelligence where he had absconded himself in which I was so successful that he not only deserted by the greater part of his people, but that I also got exact intelligence where he was and some of his own subjects to undertake to guide my forces to him. I had no sooner brought matters to this crisis but, I immediately detached one Sergeant, one Dubadar, 4 Jemadars 110 rank and file, 100 Chawars last night who surprised him took him prisoner, and are now arrived in the fort. The resistance they met with in consequence of my prior negotiations was trifling only one sepoy and some chawars wounded.

My not being on the spot and the Sergeant's authority not being so weighty, induced the sepoy to break through the orders they were enjoined in regard of plunder, so that his wealth and effects

I am etc,

JOHN FERGUSSON

No 164

To GEORGE VANSITTANT Esq

FORT WILLIAM

30th March 1767

(Received 1st April)

SIR,

You will please to order up to the Cantonments at Bankypore the Grenadier Companies of the Pargannah Battalion of sepoys stationed at Midnapore

I am etc,

H VERELST

No 165

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

(ALCUTTA

2nd April 1767

Sir

Your letter of the 25th ultimo duly came to hand. May your new residence answer your most sanguine expectations, and be assured of my inclination to contribute to it all in my power

Your intended circuit thro' the Provinces under your charge is necessary on many accounts, and I recommend the ryots particularly to your attention when distance from the Fountain's head makes them the more liable to oppression

I am likewise favored with your letter of the 27th ultimo Your enquiry into the complaints of the Cossijurdu ryots is very satisfactory, and alto' I had discoursed with the Governor upon the subject I delayed sending you any directions, in consequence untill I had an opportunity of receiving further lights from Mr Graham

It would seem then the Mangun was only an expedient to enabling the Raja to pay off some old private debts and has probably fully answered the purpose We may connive at but cannot avowedly countenance such an imposition, and you will be pleased to acquaint the Raja that it is expected there will be no necessity for renewing it next year Had it arisen from our over rating the rent, it would then have been our business to interfere to relieve both the Raja and the ryots

As to the 2nd article, if you find that the Batta of 3½ annas per sicca rupee is higher than he accounts for to the Company, the excess must be allowed to the ryots in their future payments and henceforth the Raja must regulate his demands by the Batta established at your Factory by the Governor and Council

The three heads of the Mahtors you recommend must at all events be continued as must the other two, even if they are of two or three years standing These money exactions are but a bad system at any rate but there is no remedy without making a fair hustabood, which both the Raja and Company will be equally averse to However it is an object I have in view, as I am convinced it will be for the interest of the Company, and at the same time relieve the poor ryots from many oppressions

I beg you will order the ryots to their respective homes acquainting them that you will hear no further complaints but in making your circuit It is a maxim with these people to be clamorous on a change in the administration with or without cause

I am, etc

CLAUD RUSSELL

(Collector General)

No. 166

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA

4th April 1767

(Received 5th April 1767)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 27th of last month, and approve of your making the circuit of the Midnapore and Jellasore Provinces. If the same was done every year it would certainly redound to the advantage of the Company, as well as to the ease of the Ryots.

Nothing particular occurs to me at present. Should anything strike me by and by, I will mention it to you.

I am, etc,

H VERELST.

No 167

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

[No Address]

4th April 1767,

SIR,

Your favour of the 27th and its duplicate arrived yesterday as also your letter of the 28th this day. Fear having kept the nephew from appearing while his uncle was at large has hitherto retarded the resetting of the country, but since the event, some of the chiefs of the country have gone to invite him, and I expect him daily. I am pretty certain that there only want the naming of a new Zemindar to induce the majority to make their submission, and if any at that time. . . . obstinate, I shall according to your orders them, and leave the purgana at the devices of whosoever shall be appointed.

A journal of my proceedings I have up to this day, but my compass went wrong the 2nd day's march to this Fort, I having it in my hand to observe our course, when the enemy set on us, and my needle, from the firing, I think it must be, flew off its axis. This will in future make me very imperfect in the course, and the want of a set of mathematical instruments renders me incapable of making charts.

This Fort is situated on a plain surrounded with jungle. Its area nearly 1,158 square feet. It has a rampart of very bad earth or rather gravel, and of course, a bad rampart, as the gravel does not stick, but the ditch is excellent, being forty-two feet wide and 18 feet high to the level without. The principal gate is on the north side near the N E angle; for there is no bastion, and there is a small gate in the same manner near the S W angle. The bridge over the ditch to both of these gates is a set of trees laid horizontally, and covered with earth. They broke part of each on our approach, but, resolving not to hold out, repaired it again with planks. Without the principal ditch is a very large esplanade in which was the bazaar and several dwelling houses, and this again was surrounded by a ditch about seven feet wide and four feet deep. Within the very centre of the Fort was the Zemindar's particular dwelling house, surrounded by a very high and thick wall, being, to the north and south, 288 by 240 feet to the east and west, esplanade

and all. There are only three paltry draw wells, but to the north-west, without the limits of the lower ditch two large tanks.

Thus have I endeavoured to answer both your letters. Let me only add that with this I send a return of my detachment. That I will make it my business to attend to all your instructions, and inform you of every circumstance here, and that I am

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

J FERGUSON.

P S—As you will observe, I talk of the Raja's dwelling, bysyr, etc., in the perfect tense, as they are all burnt and don't now exist.

No 168

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

GATSEFLA FORT

5th April 1767

Sir,

Your favour of the 1st arrived here yesterday, and your order regarding the Zemindars shall be paid the greatest regard to as soon as circumstances which you could not foresee admit of its being put into execution that is as soon as the vehicle and bearers can be had to convey the old man, for he can't ride, and as soon as a bamin (*sic*) can be got to prepare for him the necessary sustenance, for since his arrival he has had of his only one slave boy and has had his victuals dressed some times by one jemindar bamin and sometimes by another's. This I hope, will be a sufficient plea for a day or two's delay in which time I shall be able, I expect, to send him off according to order. Hitherto his effects have been locked up in one of the houses where I live under double centenals, but now I shall break them up and send you an inventory of them.

When my perwana reached the nephew where he resided it gave him great satisfaction. He accordingly made preparations departing directly, but when he was about to set out he found himself detained by Endergeet, Zemindar of Aditbhoom on frivolous pretences. This Zemindar being a friend of the uncle's, had been often applied to by him to make away with the nephew, but all he could obtain from him was a promise that he would detain the nephew in such a manner that he would not disturb him. However it is the opinion of the black people here that as soon as the ryots and surdars, 3 of whom I sent on the event of the Raja being taken, arrive that the Endergeet will not only set him at liberty, but also conclude a sort of alliance with him such as existed with the uncle.

Motives of justice, equally with political ones, induced me to have a little patience with this candidate, as he is the heir, and of course has the best title provided he acknowledges the Company, and in the better light as he is the most desirable to the ryots for of all those whom I have as yet mentioned none proposed another but after saying that whoever I set up would be agreeable, they added that if left to their choice the nephew

Captain Upton's letter convinces me that he has not given up the point regarding Chatinab. He seems surprised that I should not immediately

contemn the orders and information of my Chief so clearly and distinctly expressed, on account of his assertions and because Lieutenant Carter happened to come that way in the course of his survey,* as if the Chief of Midnapore was not a proper judge of the limits of his own Province, than a young gentleman about a year in the country, who is ordered on a survey, I suppose because he knows the use of Gunter's chain and the theodolite, and perhaps is an excellent hand at charts. He talks of disputes. I cannot conceive what in the disputing stile he could pick in my letters, and if it is a matter to be settled by the Governor, for I can't conceive how Mr Sykes should be joined with him in that affair the sooner the better, as I, notwithstanding Captain Upton's caveats and Lieutenant Carter's mensurations, have adhered to my first settlement with the Chittinah Zemindar, and there is actually some revenue arrived from him in the Tanna of Bulrampore. Your orders on this head I'll expect in your next, for I know my duty too well to pay attention to any other quarter, unless immediately from the Governor of Fort William. One small favour I must request from you and that is a small quantity of paper, as the supply I brought from Midnapore is almost expended.

Mr Penrice's chit I received, but as all the monthly bills were gone some days by a circar, his letter is in effect answered

I am, etc,

J FERGUSON

P S—I have just received intelligence that Kanudali, the nephew, will arrive here to-morrow morning —J F

No 169

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA

7th April 1767

(Recd 8th April)

SIR,

I have received your favour of the 5th. The 5th read of the Mahtoot† that you have abolished in consequence of my letter of the 2nd I suppose was of a very late date. You will oblige me with its particular appellation.

So far from making promises to the Cossyah ryotts while they were at Calcutta, I would not even hear what they had to say as in my absence I would discourage every complaint, but thro' the channel of the Resident I would not even see them, but while I could put the letter for Mr Graham into their hands with a general assurance that he would inquire into their grievances I could wish therefore, the heads of them had a public chastisement for their assertions.

I am, Sir, [etc].

CLAUD RUSSELL,

(Collector General)

* On January 1st, 1767 Kennell was appointed Surveyor-General, and Carter was the third of his four assistants. See La Touche *Journals of Major James Kennell* p. 86

† Mahtout

No 170.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

(BOARD OF TRADE)

FORT WILLIAM :

April 8th, 1767

(Recd. 11th April).

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 1st instant, desire you will take charge of the Societys' salt as soon as it is transported the Anundpore by the contractor, but as we imagine its being immediately disposed of might interfere with our sales at Patna, as the beparies carry it through the Jungles into the Behar Province, we must request you will wait our further orders before you make any sales, except for the supply of the Midnapore and Jellalore Provinces. The quantity that you dispose of for the consumption of these parts you will please to receive the Bazar prices for.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
THO. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER

No 171

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

FORT, GATSFELA

9th April 1767

Sir,

Permit me by this address to acquaint you that, finding Kunudali on his arrival to be the proper person for the zemindary in its present situation and also well disposed in the revenue affair, I proceeded without delay to settle matters in this purgana. Having with great difficulty induced the heads who were present to agree and undertake to assist in collecting the sum of 5500 dormahply rupees which they had great objections to, on account of its exceeding their tuxem jumra, but at last undertook it. I this day made their favourite Kunudali Zemindar by the name of Jugernat-dol, it being customary to change [names] on like occasions, and made him ratify the settlement of the yearly revenue. On this occasion I took on me to present him a horse sword, dammas and several other things that are usual. I also gave a little phike in a present to an old brahm, who is considerable man among the ryots.

I hope this settlement will be to your mind, as this much they undertook to be punctual in paying of, but if exceeded it would depress the country people and of course occasion arrears. I also sent the former Zemindar guarded by two Company's command by my Sergeant off for Midnapore, where he will probably arrive the 18th or 14th at furthest. In a letter,

which you will receive by the hands of the Sahadar, I hope there are sufficient and satisfactory reasons for my not immediately complying with the tenor of your order. I have in vain attempted a list of his effects. They consist of gold trinkets, silver trinkets and some plate, brass vessels and utensils, men and women's wearing apparel; and the implements of state I have given the new Zemindar. There were also four horses and three mares. One horse and one mare I gave as above. Of what remains and is tolerable and I should wish to keep, the rest either are or border on tatters. The value (according to the estimate of the circar people along with me) may amount to Rs 5,000 odd. The clothes which are of least value, I shall dispose of as they are bulky. The most valuable things shall be disposed of when and where you shall order.

Having erected a new Zemindar in the Purguna and everything wearing a peaceful aspect, I propose as soon as the Sergeant joins me, 4 days hence, to set out for Janpore Thana.

So soon as that supply of paper arrives which I requested in my last, I shall be punctual in communicating to you every circumstance that deserves notice. In the meantime, I am with regard

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

J FERGUSSON

No 172

To J FERGUSSON, Esq

FORT, GATSFELA

10th April 1767

Sir,

As I am of myself by no means a proper judge what to do regarding a circumstance, which has occurred since writing to you last night, I do not delay a moment to consult you on the occasion. This morning the two revenue people who are along with me acquainted me that there were three vakiels of Mounal's, late one of Patchest¹ Phongedars² arrived with a letter from their master, and that they earnestly entreated an audience. After some doubts, not knowing what their business might be, I granted their request.

Being admitted, the contents of the letter and of their petition imported that they applied to me as the only Company's servant they could have access to with any safety on account of the forces in pursuit of them. They proceeded to explain that both their master Mounal and his nephew and colleague (sic) Mounila decm'd themselves hardly dealt with in being drove from their inheritance, without inquiring into their right settlements, that they conceive that the Governor of Lengal is not acquainted with them, they request the favour of an inquiry, in which case they hope everything from the known justice of our nation, as they will undertake to prove that the Phongedar at present supported by the Company, his Father, was always supposed an impostor, and that his repeated endeavour to forcibly to make himself master of Patchest being fruitless, and his having recourse to negotiation, they also in that by the justice of their

¹ Panchkot, see note p 137

² Fawjars

cause prevailed against him at Moorshedabad. It was after these repeated disappointments that he retired to Burdwan, where he begot the present Phougedar of Pachet who is his natural son, he not being married to the mother, which they say, allowing him to be the son of their elder renders him claim posterior to others who are lawful offspring of the same grand father, admitting the impostor's claim. Now, as they are ready to pay the Company what tasks the country affords, and in every respect to acknowledge the Company, they hope, if they are allowed an audience and enquiry into their rights and if it be found that their allegiances are founded in truth, that may be re-instated in preference to one who has a remoter connection. The former Phougedar will himself on my promise deliver himself up to me in order to inquire into the affair, his vakiels are ready either to attend you or go to Calcutta if allowed on the same subject. The Phougedar won't venture out of the jungle until hopes are given him, and then he will perform his promises for this country, if he is restored, with great cheerfulness. This is the account of their address which I heard, and told them to take care that their master came not into the Midnapore Province, for that he did I must consider him as an enemy, that their grievances I would represent, but that they in the meantime were to hope nothing, and that in four or five days I would give them an answer.

I beg, Sir, if in this affair I have acted improperly that you would immediately reprove me for it, and of yourself extricate me without mentioning my imprudence as by that means I shall know how to act on another occasion. If this is not the case, and there is no impropriety in what I have done, pray instruct me how to act.

I am, etc,
J FERGUSON

P S—I this morning received your favour of the 8th

No 173

To G VANSITTART, ESQ.

GATSEELA
10th April 1767

SIR,

I have the pleasure to send you by along with the bearer 1,000 Adad Rupees being the Chait months Chasana from those zemindars who have already settled 500 of which sum is cash and 500 bonds of these zeminders who are along the bonds I inclose, as also a Bengal bond. If by this acctt you should imagine that I advance with too little reserve to Govindram, I must take this opportunity of acquainting you that, by his own acctt of matters, which you have no reason to doubt, he is very ill used by Keteran Chan, who neither writes a Sir nor sends any money, so there is only the alternatives of making them starve or supplying in them. The money goes from the Parguna of Bulrampore.

I am [etc]
J FERGUSON

No 174

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA

11th April 1768

Sir,

I have had your favor of the 1st and the 3rd instant, and I sent back the Midnapore and Jallasore Vakeels, having first advanced them 200 rupees for travelling charges

I have likewise received your letter of the 7th with your Treasury Accounts for last month and a bill upon the Paymaster General for Current Rupees 9100

I entirely approve of your continuing to persue for the present the plan which you propose for encouraging the cultivation of raw silk, and if the zemindars can be prevailed on to enter into proper engagements for this purpose I think it would be certainly more eligible than granting new talukdaries, in the interview any offers which may be made to me here shall only be accepted of provisionally as you desire

Your settling the terms in proportion to the quantity of ground will certainly prosper as well as the means you propose for encouraging the ryots to undertake this business, however, as it is probable they will soon become sensible of the advantages arriving from this method of cultivation I fancy there will be no necessity for continuing these indulgencies after a few examples may have produced this effect

In your intended visit to the Pargunahs, I would chiefly recommend you to inform yourself if the people labour from the oppression of zemindars or otherwise, and which are the most likely means to redress their grievances, also what parts will best admit of the cultivation of Mulberry tree etc, and if swamps and jungle grounds which may without much difficulty be cleared or drained or if any other means should occur to you of increasing the Company's revenue without oppressing the ryots, I desire you will communicate them to me

I am etc,

RICHARD BECHER,

Collector General

No 175

To CLAUD RUSSELL Esq

Collector-General.

MIDNAPUR

13th April

Sir

Enclosed is a letter which I received then from the Tahsildar of Cossijurah whereby it appears the Ryots are sett of again for Calcutta. In the perwanah it was written with a view to the ease of the Ryots the Mahtoot of Permanid Gosseen and the Man hereby abolished in future nothing is to be collected or

No. 176.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.

UNDATED :

[Received 13th April, 1767.]

SIR,

I must begin this address by requesting that you will not take amiss my having delayed putting in execution your order which was not provisional, and I am the rather induced to hope this as sentiments of pure compassion induced me so to do.

The old Zemindar was only this day tolerably provided, if I may say so much, in servants and a dooley to carry him off. Such was the hatred which all his servants entertained for him, that they no sooner had got out of his reach, than they determined never to return, and it was with some difficulty that I got new ones for him.

I, this afternoon, send him off guarded by two companies, commanded by my sergeant, and he will be delivered over to the Company at Chandeepta, the 11th current. As this letter goes by the hands of the Sergeant to be delivered to the... badar, I shall say nothing regarding the situation in which matters are here, as by a letter I shall write this evening you'll be informed much sooner. With regard

I am etc.,

J. FERGUSSON.

P. S.—Along with the Detachment, I send two of those who suffered most that they may soon recover of their wounds. Shall I presume to request that you'll make my apology to the Captain for neglecting to acquaint him of this circumstance?

No. 177.

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

BULRAMPORE :

13th April, 1767.

SIR,

Enclosed I send you copies of the several papers which take any notice of the subject which will more effectually explain the matters than anything I could say. They, this moment, arrived and our pike of Chatina, who says that his Zemindar has got an army 1,000 strong, and that they will all die sooner than become a part of the Patchaet* Phonsdary. I wait not to write on any other subject, but to add that I am ready, with your orders, to defend

* Panchkot. "The name of a mountain in Manbhoom near the confluence of the Barakar with the Damodar, and of a Hindu State, the capital of which lies behind this hill, of great antiquity and extent. Panchkot lay west of the realms of Bustapur and Burbhoom. The word means fifty millions, supposed to refer to the number of the chief baronies and parganas which it dominated, and when the English obtained it in 1760 as a dependency of Burdwan, by whom it had been conquered, it was supposed to extend to the borders of Bembrey." Oldham: *Historical Ethical Aspects of the Burdwan District*. P. 18, *Vide* Grant *Views of the Revenues of Bengal*. Vth Parliamentary Report, 1813, Vol. 1. p. 464. Forrest: *Selections from the Records of the Foreign Department*. Vol. 11, pages 502-3.

Patchaet against the Nabob and all his forces—not say an upstart Phousdar.
With regards.

I am, etc.,
J. FROGSSON.

No 178.

To GEORGE VANDITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA :
15th April 1767.
(Recd. 16th April).

SIR,

I have received your letter with the abstract for March included ; but as it is not in the usual form, I send you one, by which you will be pleased to draw out another abstract and forward it to me.

I have ordered a copy of Mr. Motte's¹ chart to be drawn out for you, and I depend upon your promise of keeping it to yourself.

As Mr Russell has now the superintending of the Midnapore Province, he will give you directions about the treatment of the Gatsela Raja, I having communicated my sentiments to him herein

I am Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
H. VERELST.

| ABSTRACT OF MIDNAPORE EXPENSES MARCH 1767 | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--|--|--|
| CIVIL | | | | | |
| Charges Reparation | ... | | | | |
| Charges General | ... | | | | |
| Charges collection etc , etc | ... | | | | |
| MILITARY | | | | | |
| Military | .. | ... | | | |
| Seapoys | . | . | | | |
| Lascars | .. | .. | | | |
| And so with every head in the Military Paymaster's Disbursements | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | . | | | |

¹ Mr Thomas Motte Author of an account of a visit to the mines of Orissa (1766) See Bengal Past and Present, Vol IV, p 505, for his career For Mrs Motte (Miss Mary Touchet), the bosom friend of the second Mrs Warren Hastings, see Sydney Grier Letters of Warren Hastings to his Wife "Motte's Lane" in Calcutta commemorates his memory It was at Motte's House at Hughli, Grand was married (10th July 1777) by the Rev W Johnson to Noel G. Verlee, the marriage having been previously performed by "the popish priest" at Chaudernagore Motte died at Serampore on 29th January 1805, aged 74

No 179.

To Mr VANSITTART, Midnapore

CALCUTTA.

16th April, 1767.

(Received 17th, 1767)

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 10th and 11th with the March accounts and the bill on the Military Paymaster General mentioned to be enclosed in the former.

I have not yet seen or heard nothing of the Cossijurah ryotts. Their behaviour is to the last degree involved, and if they do come to me, I shall immediately return them to Midnapore under a guard with certificates of their appearance upon their backs, which will be the most effectual method of teaching them better manners for the future.

I know not the extent of Lieut Ferguson's orders but I suppose he has acted conformably to them in establishing the late Zemindar's nephew in the pergunnah of Gatsela, and settling with him for the revenue, or else that he waited to have the sanction of your approval. In either case this transaction is very satisfactory.

I am, etc,

CLAUD RUSSELL.

No 180

To G. VANSITTART, Esq

COAKPARA CAMP

18th April, 1767.

Sir,

Having settled matters with zemindar Jageroot Dol, as I wrote you some days ago, and the detachment with Kum Sing Dol being returned to Coakpara, which is in the Janpore route, I yesterday set out for the same place, but on our march, from the badness of the road, met with the misfortune to break with one of our tumbril wheels, to finish to repair the tumbril, in such a manner as to carry to Janpore, will take five days, according to the calculation of the head carpenter.

I am [etc.,]

J FERGUSON

No 181.

To G VANSITTART, Esq.

CAMP NEAR MOHALI

20th April, 1767

Sir,

I am now to acknowledge your favors of the 13th and 16th. The allowance of 30 Rs per month settled on the old Zemindar before he left the Fort, and I was told that a half month's allowance had been sent along with him and proper number of servants were ordered, but on my more particularly enquiring, in consequence of the Sergeant's report, on his return, I found that they had been deficient in both points, on which I ordered the

remainder of the allowance for one month, and the required servants to be sent him directly; the money I send by his bearers.

I am very glad that the sum at present stipulated for the Company satisfies you, for it is my opinion that not only this Purguna, but also all the others, will at a short period yield a considerable increase of revenue in certain circumstances, which I dare say you are well acquainted with, but which, notwithstanding, I shall, as a point of duty, take a proper opportunity of placing before you.

As to the sending of Vakeels to Midnapore, the generality have two great objections even to giving an understanding person along with me—may after long on insisting upon it, I was obliged to give it up. Their objection is the expense of maintaining one and they also allege that collecting a taskies is so new a thing amongst them that it employs all their understanding people is yet to settle it equably or collect it.

But Sir, if these objections were to be got over which with a little verbal violence I don't doubt but might be done, I, whom you have permitted to speak my sentiments without reserve, have an objection to their being sent while I remain here as being conscious that the moment they go my influence here vanishes as they will hope (such is the nature of the people) to overset a superior and orders I may judge necessary to give, as they imagine I do all of myself, without consulting any other person. If also I were immediately to return to Midnapore with my detachment when the rest of the Tanna is settled, and to bring Vakeel from each purgana, I am persuaded that the greater part of them would run away in the rainy season, and that we would not receive a rupee more revenue until there was a contract made with a force in the cold weather.

If, on the other hand, it is permitted me to sit down in a central place (as was Mr Graham's intention) with my force for one rains, and by this means give me a more immediate opportunity of making myself thoroughly acquainted with the respective purgunas, of putting an entire stop to all robbery and theft among themselves and infusing into them a spirit of traffick and merchandizing, I make no doubt of considerably increasing next year's revenue, and of bringing with me a set of Vakeels so sufficiently convinced of the benefit of being attached to the Company, that they will use the utmost means to remain so. If this matter should appear to you in another light, you have only to hint your opinion, and I shall go all lengths to have your desire complied with.

The perwana, which you sent inclosed, I shall send off to day, in the manner you direct, that he may have the more time to judge of the matter and your other instructions on that subject I shall pay the same obedience to.

The tambil being repair'd I this day set out from Chokpara, the weather being hot. At moonlight I march in the night time. At present, notwithstanding of which, I have several sick of fevers, continued and intermitting and also the jaundice, which I find is owing to the shocking practice the sepoy's have (some I mean) of smoking ganja opium especially in the warm weather. I request the favor that you would order Mr Gardner to send a good supply of medicines adapted to these diseases and I shall do my best in the prescribing way.

I am [etc.]

J FERGUSSON

No 182

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,

Collector-General

MIDNAPORE

22nd April, 1767

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of... ..16 As you mention, that you know not the extent of Fergusson's orders, I imagine it would be agreeable to you to have a copy of them, and I therefore send you one inclosed, the Settlement of the Revenue has been to him. He is furnished with an Acctt of what the several Pergunnas used formerly to pay when the subjection of these Provinces & being on the spot, he is best able to inform himself how much increase may be levied without been, so hard upon the inhabitants as to give them an easily aversion to our Government. The principal business now remaining on his hand is the settlement of your Pergunnas, which are at present in the possession of the Mohrbunge Raja¹ and which use merely to pay 2,500 Rs the old Gatzela Zemindar is under confinement here and has an allowance from his Nephew of 30 Rs per month. I hear nothing further of the Coomjurah ryots, I hope you will send them back as speedily as possible, for the season for cultivation is far advanced. Their being able to support the expence of so many journeys between this and Calcutta may be regarded as a proof that the oppressions they complained of had not reduced them to any great distress.

GEORGE VANSITTART

No 183

To G VANSITTART, Esq

[No DATE,]

Received 24th April 1767.

Sir,

I have received yours of the 18th on my march hither, which prevented me immediately answering it. Permit me to thank you for the plain and unreserved manner in which you correct me, on the head of my letters. Be assured, Sir, that I look on it as one of the highest pieces of friendship to take the trouble to point out to me any part of my conduct which is amiss, as I by that means shall not fall into the error again.

I have made particular inquiry about large trees this day. There are on the banks of the river several, but they are of that kind where a great number of branches form one trunk, and, of course, not solid. If any of the solid wood be found I shall not fail to acquaint you. As to the Gomastah and the subject of trade, I shall be able to satisfy you fully on that head on my return to Balrampore as I have directed the several zemindars with whom I have settled to make a list of what superfluities they have in their country as also what wants and to send it to me at the Tana.

The Morebunge's Vakiel and other mounties are arrived. The zamindar of Balabria pays his attendance twice-a-day, and this day, also come the Naib of Chasser, the Zemindar Pertab Sing Bez Umar being dead, and the pergunah in the hands of his widow. There are three more, to all of

a number of ~~sepoys~~ Shubet having fixed upon this town as his place of rendezvous. These circumstances have gained very little credit with me; however, I desire you will make a strict inquiry into them, and if they prove to be true in any part, that you will take into confinement whoever may be included within the above intelligence

I am, etc.

H VERELST

No 186

To G VANSITTART, Esq

JANAPORE

28th April, 1767.

SIR,

I have received both your favours of the 22nd and 24th, the same day

As Setaram's people were far from being essentially necessary at any period except in the article of show, I immediately, on receipt of yours, sent off Govindram and all the people, except 50 and 15 horse. In answer to your latter favour, I must beg leave to express my obligations to you for the fair and explicit manner in which you explain your sentiments. You convict and overcome me by reason and argument, whereas another would have told me that I did not see the matter in a right light. Now I shall proceed on that business, not only as being my duty and because I am ordered, but also because I am convinced of the propriety and expediency of it. You may, therefore, be assured Sir, no reason frivolous or not, shall induce me to defer having vakeels from the respective reminders ready to attend you on your return, taking care to advise you from time to time, if any obstacle of moment should occur in that affair.

There is already a Collector at Bulrampur, who was made when I set out on the Gatsela Expedition, and of which I advised Mr. Graham. I shall also, according to your order settle one here, as soon as I have got them all to agree to an equal revenue for the none of them have yet appeared or by any means pretend to act upon a hostile plan, but are rather restive in selling. However, I am pretty well assured that they will come to my terms, and in this belief have discharged the bullocks, which carried the Company's rice, etc, which I sold in the byear, but the expense of carrying it three months exceeds the value of the whole considerably, and I should be glad of your instructions in what manner I am to draw and make out that account, or whether I shall send them to Midnapore, there to receive their payment myself account for all the rice and money.

My best friend and patron, Mr. Graham (excuse me this much Sir, for I cannot help writing in this manner of one to whom I am so bound) has transmitted me orders to settle the Raipore, etc, districts and tho' he has wrote me that he advised you, yet I esteem it a point of duty to acquaint you also. When he wrote, he presumed that the place of residence of the detachment after the country was settled would be Bulrampore which I look on in every respect as the most eligible place as being central situated on a river, and the usual seat of the chiefs who subdued the jungles. I also on this occasion transmit you a return of my Detachment.

I am with regard [etc]

J. FERGUSSON

No 187.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,

Collector-General.

MOYNACHOLRA

1st May 1767

SIR,

On my arrival in the Perg of Coosijarah, numbers of Kooshneshuns crowded about me complaining of the Raja's having exacted rent from them. These monthly of land rent free has been continually receiving additions and has been subjected to any diminutions, in so much that of 3700 families now contained in Coosijura 1500 are comp[la]i[n]t of these people some of them have real sunnuds from former of Kings, Nabobs, or Zemindars for the whole of their possessions, and some for part. some have forged themselves sunnuds and others pretend they had sunnuds formerly but have lost them by fire, or robbery, or other accidents, and all, when they had once possessed themselves of any lands whether by grants, or forgery, or bribery, or fraud have never failed to combine together to prevent the Zemindars from making any resumptions. Mr Watts during his residence appointed five persons to examine of these Kooshneshuns, and Mr Graham added another to the number. These persons accordingly made some enquiries and some of the Kooshneshuns having been convicted of forgery, the Raja insisted on rents from them. He has not however been regularly authorised to do it, nor [have the] greater part of the claims been examined into, nor [any] final resolution taken concerning any of them. I have, therefore, added to the numbers of the inquirers one person more, whom the Kooshneshuns themselves desired and to these several persons, consisting of the tahsildars, two ameen, the Deputy Chowdry, the deputy Cauzy, and the two deputy Cannongoes. I have issued a perwanna to the following purpose — "and that they are to examine into the claims of all the Kooshneshuns, that where they unanimously agree concerning the justness of any one's claim the Raja is to grant him a fresh sunnud witnessed by them, that where they unanimously agree concerning the injustice of a claim they must give a writing to the Raja under their hands and seals permitting him to seize the lands in question, that the Raja having received the said written permission, may seize them, whenever he pleases, unless the possessor will consent to take a patta, and pay rents in the same manner as the other Ryots, that where any one of the aforesaid persons differ in opinion from the rest concerning the justice or injustice of a claim it is to be [referred] to my decision, and that they are to send me a written acct of their proceedings. By this means a considerable quantity of land may be added to the Company's mulgazzary and there is very little danger of any one being deprived of his just rights. . . . With your permission, therefore, I shall pursue the like method in any pergunna where the like complaints may be made to me. I shall likewise inform myself as perfectly as possible of the number of Kooshneshuns in every [pergunnah,] and it may hereafter be worthy of consideration whether a great part of those who have Sunnuds ought not to be subjected to the payment of some rents . . . half of what is paid by the other Ryots

The Comjurah people are still in Calcutta to the [number] of about 100, and I am apprehensive that their absence be the means of preventing the cultivation of about 2,000 of arable land

[G VANSITTART.]

No 188.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, E Q.

OMERCFY
5th May 1767

HON'BLE SIR,

I was favoured with your letter of the 28th of last month, and immediately dispatched two or three people as privately as possible into the pergunna of Pitaspore to inquire the circumstances which had been represented to you—fully resolved in case of confirmation of them to have sent a military force and seized the Moratta Aum[1]—and every one else concerned, but they proved upon [inquiry] to be in every particular entirely ground less

Should you in course of your negotiations with the Morattas have any opportunity to obtain Pitaspore for the Company, permit me to request you will do it We might in exchange, give them Boloorichour¹, the only pergunna we possess to the S ward of the Subunrika² We should gain some advantage by the bargain in point of value, and it would besides render our territories on this side more compact and save us a number of disputes

I am, &c,

[G. VANSITTART]

No 188A.

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART, at Midnapore

(COMMITTEE OF TRADE)
FORT WILLIAM
May 6th, 1767
* (Recd 8th May)

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 26th ultimo If you find that it will not be possible to prevent the Baparies who trade towards Patna getting salt in a clandestine manner, we desire in such case that you will supply them with that article from the Society's golabs at Anundjore

We are, etc,

J CARTER
CLAUD RUSSELL
CHARLES FLOYER

¹ Bhelorachar (Price)

² Subarnarekha.

No. 189.

To Mr GEORGE VANSITTART.

CALCUTTA
7th May 1767
(Recd 9th May)

Sir,

I have been favored with your letters of the 22nd ultimo and 1st instant, I am obliged to you for the copy of Lieut Ferguson's instructions

The enquiry you have ordered into the pretensions of the Koosshun's is very right and proper. If it this Rajah's province and not the Resident's to grant the fresh sunnuds, I can think of no amendment and you will be so good as to pursue the same method in the other pergunnahs. The subjecting such as are furnished with real sunnuds to the payment of rents would I fear, be an innovation that would draw on us an odium for a very inadequate advantage

I have had peons out on the watch, and I am assured the Cossijarah ryotts are returned. They never adventured to appear before me, but once, when I selected four for punishment, they found means to walk off, and I never laid my hands upon them afterwards

I am, etc,
CLAUD RUSSELL

No 190.

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,
Collector-General

AGRACHOUR
7th May 1767

Sir,

Since I wrote you last, part of the Cossijarah ryots having returned from Calcutta, repaired to me at Subbang, and would fain have persuaded me it was your final determination that some thing should be refunded to them. They told their story, however, in so imperfect a manner that, having heard nothing further from you concerning them I only concluded they had made their escape from Calcutta without your knowledge upon being informed of your intention to punish them. I, therefore gave the three principal of them a severe flogging for their repeated insolences, and then sent them back to Cossijarah with assurance of my protection from all injuries, in case of their good behaviour, and threats of a more rigorous treatment, if they should merit it for the future

I am, &c.,
[GEORGE VANSITTART]

No 191.

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,
Collector-General

BEERCOOL,*
12th May 1767.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 7th. It properly belongs to the Raja to grant [fresh?] Sunnuds to the Kooshnishuns I have therefore made no alteration in that particular. Your opinion concerning the collecting of Rents from those who held real sunnuds is, I believe, very just, when I [wrote] to you from Moynachour, I thought their possessions had been more considerable than I [now] find they are.

Lieut Ferguson has settled the rent of the Pergunnahs in the Mohurbunge Raja's possession for—Rs. a year.

I have received advice from Cossijurah—Jimadar and the peons being arrived there from Calcutta who say they are come to take care to—illicit trade be carried on in Salt contrary to the privileges of the Committee. If these people are invested with any regular authority, I imagine I shall be informed of it, and then I shall withdraw the men whom I had stationed there for that purpose. In the mean while I have directed the Tahsildar not to allow them to—as they will interrupt my men without per—, being themselves invested with proper authority.

[G. VANSITTART]

No. 192

To MR VANSITTART, Midnapore

CALCUTTA
14th May 1767.
(Recd 14th May)

Sir,

My letter of the 17th acquainted you how the Cossijurah ryotts slipped thro my fingers. I have since had the pleasure to receive your's of the same date, and am glad that these dogs have at least met with their deserts. They will behave better in future I hope, and it will be a more striking lesson to others not to fall into the same error than if they had been punished here.

I am, etc,

CLAUD RUSSELL

* Hastings wrote to his wife (Oct 9 1780) "My Marian I saw an alligator yesterday with a mouth as large as a budgerow, and was told it was of a sort which is very common about Balesore but this not so large. I shall never consent to your going again to Beercool." Chapman in 1796 writes of Beercool "the beach is the finest in the world."

† See note p 152

No 193.

To CLAUD RUSSELL Esq.,
Collector-General.

BOLDONGROG

21st May, 1767.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 14th and 15th, in conformity to the latter, which did not reach me till to-day, I have sent order for seizing the persons who take upon them the name of the Comrs of Trade

[GEORGE VANSITTART]

No. 194

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART.

CALCUTTA

18th May, 1767

(Received 21st May 1860)

SIR,

I received your favour of the 12th this morning which requires no further answer than to request that, instead of preventing those persons from acting who assume the authority of the Salt Committee you will violent hands upon them until we can discover whom they belong to. The Gentlemen of the Committee of Trade disclaim all knowledge of them, nor would they have sent people on such a commission without regularly applying to you

I am, etc

CLAUD RUSSELL

P S—A thousand thanks for the Cashew nuts. I am sorry to inform you that this instant accounts are arrived from Rumbold of a terrible fire at Patna that has consumed the Factory and greatest part of the city. Besides the Co's books and papers Rumbold has not saved anything but what was on his back. This happened the 8th, and the city was yet in blaze when his letter came away

No 195

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART, Resident at Midnapore

CALCUTTA

21st May 1767

(Received 23rd May 1767)

SIR,

I have this morning been informed that the peons I desired you to seize upon in my last, belong to the purchaser of the Society's salt at

¹ *Anacardium occidentale* An American fruit tree imported into India, it is supposed by the Portuguese S American *acajou*, Ind *haja*, *Vida Hobson Jobson* Art 'Cashew

² For the fire at Patna See Long Selections No 210 Rumbold afterwards Governor of Fort St George and a baronet

Anundpore and Mundlegaut,¹ and act by authority. If so, you will be pleased to release them as their Principal, Consignat, must, and I shall answer for their conduct. At the same time I must request you will inform yourself particularly of the circumstances relating to them, and acquaint me with the result, for it is here confidently asserted that one Juggernaut Mollick Sukdar at Cossijurah finding them obnoxious to him in clandestine sales of salt which ought to belong to the Society, has misrepresented matters in order to get them removed that he might be more at liberty to carry on his ill dealings. If this assertion be true it will be our duty to make a severe example of the delinquent. You will therefore be so good as to have an eye upon this man and should you find that he really has carried off on such a trade you will extend your enquiries over all your district for in that case, it is likely he may not be singular.

[I remain, etc.]

CLAUD RUSSELL.

No, 196

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,

Collector-General

MIDNAPORE

May, 1767.

SIR,

Your favour of the 21st arrived just in time to prevent the dispatch of my orders for seizing Consignat's peons. I do not rightly comprehend what occasion he can have for their services at Cossijurah as I am assured that he some time ago disposed of the whole of his Annundpore purchase, and it is now the season for the sales of this year's salt. However if they confine themselves to their proper business their staying at Cossijurah is a matter of no great consequence. I am only apprehensive that they will take the liberty which peons generally do of exceeding the limits of their commission, that they will be guilty of extorting money from the ryots or otherwise of pressing them and I shall be troubled with complaints which as they act by an independent authority I shall be embarrassed how to redress. With respect to Juggernaut Mullick, I shall use all possible means to discover the truth of the charge against him, and will not fail to bring him to punishment in case it should appear to be well founded. It may assist me much in my enquiry if you will direct the persons who have accused him to make me particularly acquainted with the circumstances which have induced them to think him culpable. The supposition of his having misrepresented matters in order to get the peons removed is a mistake for I did not receive my information from him but from the people whom I had myself stationed at Cossijurah to prevent any illicit sales of Salt. As to the rest I have taken the most effectual means in my power to secure to the Society the full enjoyment of their exclusive privileges as well as in the Western Jungles as in the other districts. and you may depend upon an assistant whomsoever I may convict of infringing it.

[G VANSITTART]

¹ Mahakungat (Manikhat). See *Journal Royal Asiatic Society* October 1826

No. 197.

To MR. GEORGE VAN SITTART, Resident at Midnapore.

[BOARD OF TRADE.]

FORT WILLIAM :

26th May 1767.

(Recd. 3rd June)

SIR,

Herewith you will receive a chest of stationery ware on account of the Hon'ble Company.

I am, etc ,

W. ALDERSEY.

(Buzey).

No 198.

To MR VANSITTART, Midnapore

BOBSIPORE :

27th May, 1767

(Received 30th May, 1767)

SIR,

I have received your favor of the 5th instant

With regard to the exchange of the pergunnas you mention it may be as well delayed, as we are in treaty the whole Cuttac country¹, when, if it is necessary, the pergunna of Petaapore may be put under the orders of the Resident at Midnapore

I am, etc ,

H VERELST.

No 199

To G VANSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE .

29th May, 1767.

SIR,

Herewith you will receive the treasure for Bysac month in which there is some proportion from every Zemindar in both Tanna. But it will be proper first to acquaint you what settlement I made with the different Zemindars of the Janepore Tanna which I have not as yet mentioned to you —

Dasm Rs.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----|------|
| Belabria | .. | ... | 800 |
| Chura | Part of Khein | ... | 200 |
| Barizeet | Part of do | ... | 400 |
| Keurchund | .. | ... | 85-8 |
| Dekparhee | ... | ... | 100 |

This was all that could be obtained with reason, considering the lights that we had into the affair, but I have taken such measures as shall make me go on a certain footing, if they should be refused (refused)

¹ Verelst *View of the Rise, Progress, etc., of the English Government in Bengal.*
Appr.

Enclosed is the acct in large in Bengala So I hope a short sketch will suffice from me

| | Adad Rs |
|---------------------|-----------|
| In cash | ... 3,150 |
| Corturam's Bond for | ... 25 |

The tuskees kistbundeas and Ranie Wousul acct are all enclosed

In the Ranie's time, the Bulrampore Collector's wages were 40 Dasm Rs per month He has two more to assist him allow this the Janepore do's Wages were 30, also there is a sheraf who requires 10 Rs I should be glad of your orders on these heads The Mamulet people, who are along with me, desire wages from the Company, while they are here I should be glad to know regarding them also, as I should wish to favour them having found them useful

I, notwithstanding of my illness, order'd the Patna traders to be stopt on the receipt of yours

I also take this opportunity of sending you a monthly return and beg leave to request clothing for 1 surang, 1 tindal, 24 lascars who are with me, and have not received last year's as has not the artillery sergeant, they being in tatters and clamorous the rains coming on

I have great reason to be satisfied on the score of my recovery, as tho' I have the fever the whole day, it incommodes me little I having a tolerable appetite and moderate sleep Permit me to offer you a fine *Cyros** which the Doctor tells me is the only animal you care for otherwise I should have sent some others

With regard, I am [etc]
J. FERGUSON

No 200

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE

4th June, 1767

SIR,

On making further particular inquiries on the subject of effectually stopping the salt merchants from going into the Morattoo country I understand that many of them pretend to go to Anundpore and follow that road but afterwards take an opportunity of moving away to the other country On this it occurred to me that the most effectual manner of stopping them would be on their return by seizing their salt provided you esteemed it a proper measure to grant those merchants that pass through the jungles and buy their salt from the Compy a perwana signifying that they did so This I lay before you to judge of, for I am far from knowing whether it is consistent or not But since our jungle Zemindars have stopt any from going thro' their country, I have certain information that far of the greatest part of the Patna salt merchants pass to the Morattoo country without our bounds by the country of Patcombe† and Sing Boorum‡ which (according to my intelligence) are not within the bounds of either of our

* *Saras* — the great gray crane *Grus Antigone*

† Patkum

‡ Singbham

provinces In one of these resided Jugurnut Dol, before he was sent for to Gatsela, and, if I may believe one of his principal people, both these Zemr^s, Vakiels (having come to Gatsela to congratulate the new Raja) expressed a desire that they might be put in the footing with their neighbours in these jungles, as they were constantly oppressed by a neighbour who made a practice and trade of plundering and carrying off their effects He also added that the two could give a revenue of 6 000 Rs at least

This I thought it my duty to acquaint you of in consequence of my last genl orders and instructions Inclosed I send a particular account of the rice etc which we brought with us, the amount when sold being 243 5 3 Rs The pay of 62 bullocks for March being 279 Rs, there is a balance of 55 10 9 Rs due wch shall be recd in any manner you shall order

I propose, with your consent, to encourage a gauge here in order to make the Tanna flourish, as it did formerly

With regard, I am [etc]

J FERGLSON

No 201

To G VASITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE

6th June, 1767.

SIR,

I yesterday received your favour of the 3rd Having a copy of Mr Graham's extract with me I did not fail to animadvert on these three heads as they occurred With regard to the Taluc it had been incorporated with the purgas of Sankacooler and Ramgur many years and I acquainted Mr Graham of it, on which he wrote me that it would be a good plea for augmenting another season

The Purga Aurangabad is incorporate with Mhan Bnoon but how long I can't say When I settled with the Mhan Boison Zemindar he said it was Aug Purga that enabled him to pay anything for that Mhan Boison never had any jumma however, other zemindars induced me to put up with that settlement which I make no doubt you saw in my letter on that subject to Mr Graham The sundry villages are, I am pretty certainly informed, incorporate with the 4 purgas in the Morbhe * Raj's possession, though his people did not acknowledge it I have however given such instructions to the tannidars and other gommasts who reside in the tannas and principal purgas as will make me clear on these heads and also an adequate judg^t of the real value of these purgas In a few months I shall settle the servants in the tannas according to your order

* Mayurkhang The first king of Tamruk bore the title of 'The Peacock Banner,' and begat a long line of thirty-two princes of the warrior caste This dynasty bore the heraldic device of the Peacock exactly as the Morbhang family does at the present day and it was succeeded by another line of four Peacock Kings who invaded Tamruk from the Morbhang State thus giving rise to the later legend The great District of Midnapur now stretches between Tamruk and the Morbhang State, but the heraldic bird of the latter the Peacock, still surmounts the Temple at Tamruk and the Morbhang I was long retained property in the immediate tract. Hunter Orissa Vol I pp. 308-9 Vide Calendar of Orissan Correspondence No. 2484

No 203

MIDNAPUR
7th June, 1767.To CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

Lient Fergusson having now completed the settlement of the Jungull pergunnas, inclosed is an Account shewing the tribute which was formerly paid, the revenue now settled, the deductions allowed in consideration of the collections made by Ranny Sirroomunny (the Midnapore Zemindary) before our taking possession and the several Kistbundeas of the remainder. This settlement, I flatter myself, you will deem satisfactory for the present, tho' there is no doubt but it will hereafter admit of a very considerable increase

[G. VANSITTART]

No 204.

To MR GEORGE VAN SITTART, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
8th June 1767.
(Recd 10th do)

SIR,

As the stationery for the subordinate Factories falls under the Sub-accountant, and is only forwarded by the Buxey, he must be answerable for all deficiencies, and to him therefore I have referr'd the remarks contained in your letter to me on that subject

I am etc,
W. ALDERSEY (Buxey)

No 205

To MR. VAN SITTART, Midnapore

BURDWAN
12th June 1767.
(Recd 18th do)

SIR,

I am favoured by your letter of the 7th with the papers and bills mentioned to be inclosed

The settlement of the jungle Pargunna's is very satisfactory for the present, but will not Ranny Souramany expect a deduction from her Tushees in consequence as the jungles are now independent of her? Her silence does not seem to imply a right, however, if in equity she really has one it would be mere for the honour of the Company spontaneously to admit it I shall be glad you will inform me in this particular.

I am [etc]
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector General.

No 206

To MR GEO VANSITTART, Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM

19th June 1767

SIR,

We herewith send you a list of investment to be provided at your Factory this season, in consequence of orders from the Hon'ble Company, and we direct that you may comply with the same as fully as possible

In case of you deviating in any manner therefrom you must assign very explicit reasons to us for so doing.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedt Servants,

JN CARTIER

RICHD BECHER

JAS ALEXANDER

W. ALDERSEY.

CHARLES FLOYER.

ALEX CAMPBELL.

Etd.

SIMEON P DROZ,

Seery

Transcribed

THO HENCHMAN.

No 207.

To G VANSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE

21st June 1767

SIR,

My fever, wch oblidged me to address you for several days in the Persian language, having now left me I take the first opportunity of acquainting you and I request that anything in these letters which seem to border too much on freedom may be forgiven particularly my applying to you for a Dhye* for my own distress and her's together operating on me at the same time, and she being void of help after several fruitless attempts to get one by means of sircars, etc I thought it best to apply to you, as your orders would have an immediate effect

I being very weak, request 5 days' respite, in which time I hope to be able to bring up any business that is behind

I always am with regard [etc]

J FERGUSON

* Medicine It is remarkable that Fergusson's wife accompanied him on his arduous campaign

No 208

MIDNAPORE
21st June 1767To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.,
Collector-General

SIR,

Your favour of the 12 did not reach me till 18 The Tuskees paid by Ranny Sirromunny for the Pergunnas is less than 1300 Rs & she had already collected them before our possession upwards of 1100 The difference is so small that, as she has made no demand for it, and holds her possession I believe on pretty easy terms, I imagine it is unnecessary to offer her any deductions If however you think proper that it should be done she will be the more obliged to you

There is another demand which she made, and which I have in part complied with 50 Rs between 4 and 500 foot belonging to her were ordered to accompany Lieut Lergusson by way of wages have certain lands assigned them on which however they pay a pretty considerable Peshkush but when they are sent on any service out of the Perg they are besides allowed diet money, and this in the course of the expedition has amounted to between two and 3000 Rs In strict equity perhaps the whole of this expence ought to be defrayed by the Company but they would then have to pay much more than an equivalent for the service the Ranny's people have rendered I have therefore compromised matters with her by allowing her an assistance of 700 Rs. and she seems tolerable well satisfied

We may perhaps be obliged to battle it with Mr Sykes concerning one of our Perg The Patcheat Raja, as he says by orders from Moorsabad, summoned the Zemindar of Chatna to repair to him and settle his rents and has threatened him with force in case of refusal I have written the Raja that Chatra belongs to this Province and that the rents are already settled and that if he presumes to send any of his people into the Perg I shall certainly punish them

One Persootum, who for some time past has acted as Raja Rajanarayan's Gomasta in the Pergunna of Showpore was about 20 days ago accused by the Raja of embezzlement The matter was at length settled before the Tahsildar and Canungoe of the Pergunna Persootum agreed to the payment of 1,000 Rs and gave the Canungoe for his security, but instead of paying the money he is now run off to Burdwan Thus the affair is represented to me The merits of the case I am not acquainted with My motive for now writing to you on the subject is to request that if he should repair to you you will send him back with at least a reprimand for not having first of all made his complaints to me If such a disregard to the authority of the Residents does not meet with a timely check every one upon whom there are any demands will expect to find an asylum with you and the management of the business in these Provinces will be thrown into such confusion and anarchy as cannot fail to impede the collections and prejudice the Company's interest

[G VANSITTART]

No 209

To G. VANSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE :
23rd June 1767.

Sir,

I have received your favour of the 20th. As my fever has again left me, and as the weather is cooled by means of the rains, I hope, it will be unnecessary to visit Midnapore. I am, however, obliged to you for your invitation.

The Vakeels shall be dispatched to morrow or next day at furthest, I having sent a peremptory order to those who are not as yet arrived.

I remain with regard [etc.]
J FERGUSON.

No 210

To FRANK SYKES, Esq

MIDNAPORE
25th June, 1767.

DEAR SIR,

The beginning of this year Mr Graham, in obedience to Governor's Orders, sent a detachment from hence to reduce to subjection several pergunnas situated to the Westward of this Chuckla which have ever been included in its limits, but which since the Morattoo troubles during Aliverdy Cawn's Government, have in a great measure supported themselves in a state of independence. Chatra one of these pergunnas, submitted in February last, and its revenue has ever since been regularly collected month by month, but a few days ago I received a complaint from the Zemindar that he had been summoned by the Phousedar of Palcheat to settle his revenue with him, I immediately wrote to the Phousedar to forbear, and acquainted him that the pergunna belongs to this Chuckla. In answer, he has written me that he has your orders for settling it, and that he must obey them, and he has at the same time sent a perwannah to the Zemindar threatening him with force in case of his refusal to submit. I have written him in reply that I shall .. with you whether the pergunna is to belong to Moorshidabad or Midnapore, and that in the mean while if any of his troops enter the pergunna they shall be treated as enemies and I have accordingly directed Lieut Ferguson to send a . of sepoy's if necessary to secure it from the invasion of the Phousedar's rabble, I request you will enjoin the Phousedar to desist from his pretensions. Upwards of 150 years ago when Toroo Mull* was sent by the Court of Delhi to take an account of these Subahs, Chatra Pergunna was included in the Suba of Orissa and Chuckla of Midnapore as the tuxem-jama papers form'd by him evince, and tho' the Palcheat Phousedar may perhaps have taken advantage of the Morattoo troubles to extract some money from it (which however I believe he did not) it could hardly be deem'd a sufficient plea to justify his non laying claim to it. If you will examine the papers of Moosbidabad during Duja Cawn's Government, or any time before the Morattoo troubles, they will, I believe, afford you further proof that Chatra belongs to Orissa not to Bengal. I am &c,

[G VANSITTART]

No 211

To Mr GEORGE VANSITTART, at Midnapore

[COMMITTEE OF TRADE]

FORT WILLIAM

June, 24th, 1767

(Received 25th, 1767)

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 10th instant and all the several accounts enclosed

We approve of your remitting the Society's money by bills of exchange, but should you at any time be considerably in cash, and not have it your power to procure bills, we desire you will in such case forward it to us in specie

SIR,

Your most obedient Servants

JN CARTER

CHARLES FLOYER

No 212

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq

MIDNAPORE

25th June, 1767

SIR,

The enclosed copy of a letter which I have written to Mr Syles* will explain itself I have only to request you will forward the original (which I likewise inclose) if you think it proper, and that you will favor me with your directions how to act

I am &c,

G VANSITTART

No 213

To G VANSITTART, Esq

BULRANPORE

27th June 1767

SIR,

This day the 4 last Vakiels having arrived to-morrow they set out, as also does the treasure for Jeet I have sent off your perwans with a chit from myself, notwithstanding that some few Vakiels were here 8 days waiting for the rest I have also sent off the perwana for the Patchast Phonsdar, and to-morrow a subdiar with his company marches for Chatinab to whom I have explained the orders received from you The distracted state of Galanah† has prevented them from sending a Vakiel but I dare say, when they are render'd secure by the arrival of our troops, they will send one

Mr Perario's memorandum tho' I did not answer it, was paid immediate attention to for I sent to all the Zemindars mentioned The Sankacoola

* The Resident at the Durbar

† Word doubtful

Zemindar acknowledged that he had acted in the manner expressed, and immediately set the Pykari at liberty. Told that he had given a writing which he would punctually fulfil and act in such a manner as in future there should be no grounds of offence nor complaint. The Seldah Zemindar absolutely denied that any other person whatsoever had come into his purgana to trade, and that neither he nor his people were under any engagements except to me, and these are trifling. In Colanpore I have no dealings, and in Jorgong only for a little cotton, so that in these places they use my name without just grounds. I hope you will excuse me if I don't send a return this month, there being no occurrences at all except the detachment mention'd above, and one Classie* ran away whose place I have supplied. I shall write a particular letter on the subject of salt of which I have taken a great many more bullocks.

With regard I remain [etc.]

J FERGUSSON

No 214

BULRAMPORE

27th June, 1767

SIR,

In charge of the bearer is the Jeet month's treasure, being
in Adad

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| | Rs 3,740 |
| Acct Balance | „ 39 |

Total paid... Rs 3,779

As also Vakiels from the purgunas except Chatinah and Dekparhee

I am [etc.]

JOHN FERGUSSON

No 215

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE

1st July 1767

SIR,

I wrote you some time ago that I had taken several of the salt smugglers. I have also since taken several. The whole may amount to twelve, and 600 bullocks. Far the greater part of these were a good deal stunned to find us so well acquainted with [the] price of this counterband salt, tho' they took pains to represent it much more. However on the proposal of 160 Rs per 100 Md being made, most of them give up their salt at the 50 without hesitation, requesting that they might be allowed the *hantac* which was taken from them on the road. This occasion'd a new inquiry and I found that the generality of the Zemindars did not pay the due regard to the salt perwana sent them, and that some were lead into this by the connivance of ye Bulrampore Tannidar who instructed the Beparis to say that the salt was mine. This produced a scrutiny into the

* Classie = Khasai. Probably means here a tent pitcher.

Tannidar's conduct, by which it appears that he had encouraged and made a perquisite of the trade during his whole residence here, for which I immediately dismissed him. Likewise in order to secure the Zemindars from being guilty of conniving at the escape of these people, I have taken a written promise from them that they will pay 15 Rs for every bullock loaded with all salt that escapes their vigilance, as also for every bullock which is loaded with salt within the Company's Parganas in their charge, this last being intended against the Morebunge Raja. I also, for security's sake, have placed punes at avenues where they will be aptly and easily stoped for this service. There will be 5 punes at necessary independent out of the revenue ones according to your former order. All this Beparis are either residents of this jungle itself or of Bisanapore. Of the jungle ones I have endeavoured to procure a list, and if you deem any punishment necessary, or such steps to be taken in order to prevent their future misdemeanour, if you'll please to advise me.

Of all those as yet settled with the additional price has only been given by one who had 74 Mds 20 srs I should be glad of your instructions how I am to keep this salt acctd, how remit the money, and under what heads as I believe that all the salt that falls into my hands will sell, as that intended for the supply of the neighbourhood has been taken especially part. Your opinion (may I say approbation) of the steps I have taken, and your further orders on that subject will greatly oblige one who is, with regard, Sir, [etc.]

J FERGUSON

No 216

To G VANSITTART, Resident at Midnapore

CALCUTTA

3rd July 1767

(Recd 4th, 1767)

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 21st and 25th the former on the eve of my setting out from Burdwan which has been the cause of its being so long unanswered.

As the Ranny Sinomanney has so near paid herself, it will be unnecessary to make her any allowance for the trifling difference of 200 rupees.

It is certainly but fair and equitable that she should be refunded the Batta land to her troops that were employed in our service, and at our own requisition and the compromise you have made with her, provided she is perfectly satisfied is very satisfactory—much better indeed than could have been expected.

Clair by what I learn belongs beyond a doubt to the Midnapore district you have done well in remonstrating with the Patcheat Fougedar, and supporting your pretensions to it. Your letter to Mr Sykes I approve, I have forwarded, and no doubt that Gentleman will set the matters to right.

I have seen nor heard nothing of Peersootum Rajenayram's Gomastah, whom you mention so that I suppose he is still in your Districts conceal d

I shall be glad to be informed particularly of the Purganna or Ridpoolhundy of Cossijura and Emisary,¹ as from some representations it would seem to be a hardship on the Raja to have that levied upon him while the custom of Orissa exempts the riots

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL

No 218.

To JOHN CARTIER, ESQ.,
Export Warehouse Keeper

MIDNAPORE -
3rd July, 1767

SIR,

That I may be able the more punctually to comply with the Company's Directions for their Midnapore investment transmitted to me in the Boards Letter of the 29th June, I beg your instructions on these following particulars

With regard to the packing they say "In the year 1763 we observed to you the great inconvenience that arises by making the bales either larger or smaller than what has been generally practised, which we desire may be attended to, as we find [so many?] smaller bales than usual have been sent this year, viz Gingham, Nillaes, Peniascoes Sannoos"

Upon looking over the Invoice book of this Factory, it appears to me that the number of pieces hereafter specified may be regarded as the number usually packed up in one bale

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| On Goods measuring | | |
| 20 & 2 viz | Nillaes | } 50 pieces |
| Ginghams | | |
| Piniascoes | | |
| 25 & 2 viz | Sannoos | 45 " |
| 28 & 1½ viz | Teapoys | 50 " |
| 35 & 1½ viz | Charconnaes | 45 " |
| 40 & 2 viz | Secsuckers Shawl- | 40 " |
| basts | | |
| 50 & 2 viz | Chucloes | 35 " |

This I say may be regarded as the usual number, but there have been often 5, or 10 pieces more and still often 10 [pieces?] or even 15 or 20, less, & this diversity is in great Measure on the custom which has always been observed at this Factory of [packing?] up the different letters in different bales, which occasion^s so [many?] subdivisions as renders it impossible to avoid the inconvenience complained of for instance the number of Shawlbasts to be provided is 400, of these perhaps 120 may be delivered at on apprizing and these 120 may be divided as follows —

| | |
|---|----|
| A | 60 |
| B | 45 |
| C | 15 |

Now if A, B & C are allowed to be packed together, 3 bales may be made each containing 40 pieces, but if they are to be kept. every Bale must necessarily be of a very different size In this case, am I in future to pack together the different letters or .. I submit to the inconvenience of an inequality in the bales, of [what] number of pieces of each several Size is to be regarded as the Standard for forming one bale?

The Nillaes are to be sorted agreeable to the patterns sent in 1762... What are those patterns?

The Articles marked A, viz Chucuaes for the African Trade for the providing of which I am referred to the 143 Para of the Company's General Letter of the 15th February 1763 pray send me a Copy of that Paragraph

I beg you will favour me with an answer as soon as you conveniently can, as I shall in the meantime defer dispatching a considerable quantity of goods which are now ready

I am etc,
[G VANSITTART]

No 219

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE
4th July, 1767

SIR,

A Vakiel has arrived here some days for the Zemindars of Belibria with two complaints, one against one Gossain a Bamin, who resides near the Tanna Janpore having the charge of a large and much frequented pagoda It is an old affair but was examined and adjudged in favour of the plaintiff by Mr Burdett The complaint regards three villages detained by violence from him thro' the countenance of the Morebunge Raja, and without which he says he can't pay the revenue established to the Company The other is against the zemindar of Jargong, who last year plundered his country and carried off 100 head of cattle

I have sent a perwana to each to appear and would be glad of your orders whether to inquire into the affair here or send them to Midnapore Gent instructions regulating my conduct on the head of complaints would give me great satisfaction, whether to take it upon me to examine into them, or immediately despatch the parties to Midnapore

I am etc.,
J FERGUSSON.

No 220

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Resident at Midnapore

MIDNAPUR,
1th July 1767

DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter of the 25th As the Midnapore Province is looked upon as a part of the Company's own possessions we cannot be

too solicitous in increasing the revenues, and demanding such districts as we can claim with any shadow of right I shall not, therefore, enter into any examination of the pretensions of the Phougedar of Pacheat, but direct him to withdraw his people, and leave the collection of these lands entirely to you

I am etc ,
[FRANCIS SYKES]

No 221

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE
6th July, 1767

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 3rd I should, on the first news of this strange conduct of his have set out with some sepoy to have nipt it in the bud were it not my maxim to conduct myself in such a manner as to leave little doubt of success as human certainty will admitt off, and I accordingly take my measures as tho' I had an experienced and valorous enemy to deal with Now if they have only the smallest reflection to break down the bridges on the ditch and defend the rampart with tolerable vigour, they will give us sufficient work on our hands As, therefore, you might not have approved of that step and if anything sinister had happened I could not have forgive my own rashness These being the reasons which induced me not to proceed immediately from thence I was induced to give my opinion as I did and from being pretty certain that during the interval I could weaken him by detaching his chewars nor could he form any alliances of consequence all the other petty fellows being so political that if one join'd him his neighbour from that very circumstance would become his declared enemy Besides, I did not doubt but it might have been agreeable to you and I intended mentioning it to have first reduced the Gatsela Raja and afterwards to have proceeded to reduce those destructive independent chewars or any Zemindars who pretend to protect them by which means I would leave the jungles quiet otherwise no sooner if the force withdrawn hence than you are hourly plagued with some complaint of robbery and stealth, whence the Zemindars will take occasion to delay and put off their payments I well remember'd at the same time your having mentioned my return in Novr wch was no compatible with this plan

However your remarks have induced me to alter my measures I have order'd chewars from Colianpore Sankacoola and Ramgar as being most to be depended on also from Jaitunie and Jambunie who are enemies to the Gatsela chewars I have wrote the Raja that I am coming to free him from the tyranny of this formidable chewar and have ordered him to send a Vahel to meet me at the entrance into the pargana—for several purposes I am at present busy in putting my Companies amunition and bysar in good order, as there are only three villages on the route of any consequence, whence if he acts like his uncle he'll remove everything that occasions my paying particular attention to the latter

My mondia and several of the beparies are gone to Midnapore and have not returned on my chits

Believe me always etc ,

J FERGUSSON

N B—Your letters never arrive here sooner than the third day after they are wrote per dock * I thought it proper to order them to proceed without delay —J F

No 222

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq

MIDNAPORE

7th July 1767

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 3rd instant The custom of Orissa exempts the ryots from the payment of Poolbundy not only in Cossijurah and Omercey but likewise in Cotsbpoore, Moynachoura and throughout the Midnapore Salt districts and compensation is made to those pergunnas where an expence for Poolbundy is necessary to be incurred by stating their teshkees proportionately lower The particular hardship, therefore, which Cossijurah and Omercey complain of and the deduction

ded by them (Rs 3,600 by the former and Rs 600 by the latter) arise from a different cause The Zemindars had expended the above named sums for Poolbundy out of their own pockets, and they accordingly appeared in the Bazzykerch Accounts of the pergunnas Now in the beginning of the Orissa year 1178 when Mr Verelst and Mr Graham examined the Pergunna accounts and resumed for the Company all an necessary expence thro mistake in the hurry of business, they included these accounts under that denomination The Zemindars complying was perceived, and it was determined to rectify it by advancing the sums in question for Poolbundy out of the Co's Treasury, they were accordingly advanc'd, but at the end of the year, instead of being written of to profit and loss they were suffered to remain on the books as a balance due from the pergunna so that as no deduction was allowed them in settling this year's teshkees, they will now have so much extraordinary to pay The enclosed perwanna from Mr Graham to the Tahsildar of Omercey written in Ramzaun 1173, or March 1766, will afford you a further explanation. I am &c,

[G VANSITTART]

No 223

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA

9th July, 1767

(Recd 11th July 1767)

SIR,

Your letter of the 3rd has been duly received

The package of the Midnapore Investment seems to consist of much less number of pieces than the sales sent from other factories, but as

this may (for what I know to the contrary) have been the constant custom of the place, I will not absolutely condemn it. From Dacca, though in general the goods are 40×2 and some goods of greater lengths and breadths, we have seldom less if possible than hundred pieces in each bale. In our latter despatches we are obliged to deviate from this rule, that the whole provision may be sent down. From Luckypore* I may observe the same and they now very frequently send 120 pieces in bale, tho' I remember they once had no more than 50 pieces. As I am not acquainted with the nature of the Midnapore goods or the size of the bale, I am not able to determine what number of pieces per bale should consist of. A reference to your invoice book must Sir, be your direction, and from the invoices received from your Factory I observe you have very nearly fixed your standard of each assortment, tho' in one of them (October 1760) I remark Mr. Beaumont send one bale with no more than 16 pieces and that of two letters, which is too small a packet. This might give rise to the Company's remark. The inconvenience of small bales and different letters very frequently proceed, I believe from early and frequent despatches of goods from Midnapore before you have got in a further part of your investment, in which case the above inconvenience must certainly arise.

From Dacca, if we have in the warehouse 15 000 pieces of cloth of the ready money sortments we are seldom able to send down more than half our first despatch, and, if we do, we break the assortments and a great number of partition bales are sent them the Company approves of. The Company disapprove not only of small bales but those which consist of different letters. Into one or the other inconvenience we must unavoidably fall in our last despatch of goods and that I apprehend, must be the case at every factory more or less where an investment is provided which consists of many different assortments and each of these subdivided under different letters. From the above you will readily find Sir how little I am able with permission to communicate to you that knowledge you have requested, or even any hints but such as may very probably have struck you before.

I send you a copy of paragraph 143 in the Company's General letter of the 15th February, 1765. The patterns of the billies have been sent to Midnapore. This is all the account I can learn from the office.

I am, etc,

JN CARTIER,

[Export Warehouse Keeper]

No 224

To G. VANDSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE

12th July 1767

SIR,

I have received your favor of the 8th, and shall in every respect act according to the tenor of the contents.

I have advised the Subdar at Chatnah that he will soon be recalled

* Lakshmipur Village in head-quarters of Noakhali District

Per dock* I send my journal which I had been completing ever since you wrote for it my illness having occasioned a gap, which I have filled up I am afraid you'll find it very incorrect as it is only what I intended as a scrawl of one

I beg that you would use what freedom with it your please in regard of rejecting any part that may be superfluous or unnecessary.

I am [etc.]
J. FERGUSSON

No 224

To G VANSITTART, Esq.

BULRAMPURE
13th July, 1767

SIR,

To omit immediately acknowledging yours of the 10th would (considering the contents) perhaps have a bad appearance I arrived last night eleven, but, as the subject is a matter of moment, I cannot answer it without duly ruminating and bestowing on it mature deliberation I hope, therefore, that you will not take a few days' delay amiss on the present occasion

With regard [etc.]
J FERGUSSON

No. 225.

To GEO VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA .
13th July 1767
Recd 20th July 1767.

SIR,

I recommend the bearer, Oachoupaata, to you notice He complains that one Bochedevi Chowdry, a Zemindar, has dispossed him of a village, which he held by a regular pottah herewith enclosed, and altho you had given orders for re-instating him, he is still kept out of his right

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
[Collector General]

ENCLOSURE

Oochpatir, to receive 8 Rs from Bishnoo Doss, Nayb of Bonsedar Chowdry.

To pay 21 Rs to Pissy Mahtry, who was his security for the payment of the balance due from him for Malguzery of the villages, which he held, and who, upon running away sold his cows etc, to pay him

He owns Muccuddin of Seriunj and Kismut Eincowla in Chuck Joornialpore, and wants now to possess them on the former term, instead of the term of the Kustbood as Mr. Graham ordered.

No 227.

To Mr. GEORGE VAN SITTART, at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM :

15th July 1764.

(Recd. 17th July 1764.)

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 9th inst. and the several Accounts enclosed also Bills of Exchange for Current Rupees 60,000.

We are, etc.,

JNO. CARTIER
CLAUD RUSSELL.
WILLIAM ALDERSLEY,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No. 228.

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE :

19th July, 1767.

SIR,

I have just received a letter from the Ameynagar Zemindar giving acctt of a robbery committed on his purgunah on the 13th Currnt by one Dowarie, a Sardaar of Bisanpore. Three villages were plundered of everything, and one Bamin mortally wounded. On inquiry, I find there was not the smallest grounds for this incursion, all Damader Singh's people being entirely removed from the purgunah some time. The Zemindar farther adds that his purgunah has been three times attacked from Bisanpore this season, and that he cannot pretend to pay his revenue if these excursions are not put a stop to. Your orders on this subject will oblige.

I am [etc.]

J. FERGUSSON.

No. 229.

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

BULRAMPORE :

24th July, 1767.

SIR,

This day is dispatched hence the tuskees for the month Asar, to wit what part of it belongs to this Tanna, in the manner and according to the instructions given by your Banian.

I am [etc.]

J. FERGUSSON.

No 230

To GEO VANSITTART, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

CALCUTTA

24th July, 1767

SIR,

With this you will receive a Seal to be used in the public business of the Cutcherry. A small one for common use shall be sent as soon as finished

I am, etc,

CLAUD RUSSELL

No 231.

To G. VANSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE

30th July, 1767

SIR,

I have, according to your desire, in a former letter, made an inquiry into the dispute between the Zemindars of Belabris and Goseign. It is regarding a bond, which Goseign has had of the Zemindars for the amount of Rs 495 these forty years, and for the interest of which he had 3 villages at a low tuskees from the Zemindar. During 34 years, the affair passed on this manner, the Zemindar always sensible that he made a bad bargain, but not being able to give the amount of the bond at one payment. This was made a handle to keep the villages who were greatly improved during this time, nor would he increase the tuskees being supported by the Morebange Raja. At last in Mr Bardet's time, the Zemindar made a complaint on which he says, he was ordered to be put in possession of his villages on paying the bond but this the other denied. Accordingly, the Zemindar, not being able to show a perwana to that purpose of being put into possession, I did not deem his assertion valid. However, Goseign convinced at that time, that at a dharbar where justice without corruption only would be executed, saw that perhaps by a retrospect he might even suffer for past violence, applied to a person of Mahasa's who resided at Janepore, to be an arbiter, on which it was agreed on both sides that Goseign should enjoy the villages two years more at the former rate of tuskees, at which period he would give up his bond, without desiring any money. At this, the person who acted as arbiter has given under his hand to be the true state of the affair, as he settled it at the request of Goseign and to which the Zemindar assented. At the expiration of two years, Goseign would neither completely give up the bond nor even the villages, which give occasion to this fresh complaint, so that my thoughts on this subject is that the Zemindar has not only an undoubted right to his bond and villages, but also to the amount of the produce of his villages above the tuskees since the two years have expired. The Zemindar's Vakil, who resides at Midnapore, is perfectly versed in the affair, he, if I am not mistaken, being the person who had the management of it in Mr Bardet's time, and, if you chuse to make a particular inquiry into the affair, I will send one of Goseign's people but the Zemindar conjures me so strongly to represent that Choakuram Muzumdar is declaredly in the interest of Goseign, who had taken effectual methods to prepossess

him, that he dreads the event I accordingly, having mention'd the affair to you, this proposession, if real, is render'd abortive.

I am [etc ,]

J FERGUSSON

N B—All the Janepore Tanidar's endeavours and two perwanas from me, has not been effectual towards the Morebungo Asar tuskees, Rs 600 being due

No 232

MIDNAPUR
31st July 1767

TO CLAUD RUSSELL ESQ.,
Collector-General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of 21st but the seal you mention to have accompanied it, is not yet arrived

The Tahsildar whom I sent to Moynachoura has remitted 2 000 Rs since his arrival there, but he has yet however been able to procure a sight of the Perguuna Accts They are withheld by the officers thro' fear of the Rajah's resentment who I am told has written to his Naib that he successfully negotiating in Calcutta and hopes soon to return with ample power This I look upon as one among many falsehoods, which he makes no scruple of asserting yet I cannot but take the opportunity of repeating my request that I may not be subjected to the troubles and perplexities, which will inevitable follow if his conte[mpt] of my authority meets with encouragement

I am &c,
[G VANSITTART]

No 233

COPY OF A CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE MOYNACHOURA
RAJA FROM THE 5TH TO THE 23RD OF JULY

Translation of a letter from Mr Vansittart to the Moynachoura Raja

The 7th of Suffer (5th of July)

I received your letter with a small quantity of treasure which shall be brought to your credit as soon as it is shroffed I am surprised that tho' this is the 25th of Asar you have not yet sent the balance of the kist which was due on the 15th but trouble me with false and unbecoming complaints of the desolate state of the country It is requisite that you should send the balance immediately on the receipt of this perwana In case of any further delay and evasiveness, I shall order you hither and it will be by no means for your benefit

No 2.

Translation of a letter from the Moynachoura Raja to Juggutram Dutt.

The 28th of Asar (8th of July)

I exert myself to the utmost to pay the Company's revenue Besides all the collections from the Pergunna, I have borrowed money from the Company, from the Fougedar, from Captain Du Gloss, and from other merchants, and yet I have not been able to pay it. I have, therefore, been obliged to pawn my lands to Mr Lambert's Banyan, Kissunchurn Takir. He brings an English letter from that gentleman to the Fougedar, and he will pay the revenue. Be kind enough to befriend me, and use your endeavours that the Fougedar may consent to this measure.

No 3

DEAR VANSITTART,

The Raja of Moynachoura has let his Pergunna to my Banyan Kissunchurn, and they both request to have whatever rents are due from the former on that account agreeable to contract or *kistbundeas*, that you will be so kind as to grant bills of exchange on Kissunchurn for the same payable according to your order.

I am etc

(Signed) W LAMBERT

No 4

He cannot inform me of the particulars of this agreement I immediately determined, therefore, to send for the Raja that I might make enquiry of him in the presence of the Gomasta, and learn if the scheme was admissible or not, and if not that I might take proper measures with the Raja procuring it. N B When this letter was written, I ordered the Raja's Vackeil to write him a word at the same time that I should admit of no excuse, that if he did not immediately set out for Midnapore, I should seapoys to bring him

Translation of a letter from Mr Vansittart to the Moynachoura Raja.

The 14th of Suffar (12th of July)

Your presence here being at this time necessary, I therefore write to you that you must repair hither without delay immediately on the receipt of this Pergunna

No 5

MIDNAPORE

13th July 1767

DEAR LAMBERT,

The Raja of Moynachoura's agreement to let his perganna to your Banyan having been made entirely without consulting me I am not as yet

* For biographical notices of W Lambert, see *Bengal Past and Present* III 509 11 or IV, 491

sufficiently acquainted with the terms to be perfectly a judge of it. As far as I can understand from the man brought me your letter of the 23rd June it is a scheme which can't take place Your Banyan is to rent it for 5600 siccas paid at present to the Company is near 52000 There remains only 4 or 5000 Rs to the Raja so that it will be out of his power to discharge the debts he owes to the to me and and other gentlemen nor do I conceive how he supposing an increase of revenue should be levied on next season which may very possibly be the case as it to be at present greatly underrated Besides if the Raja [has it in his] minds to relinquish the management of his Zemindory, the Company will probably choose to take it into their own [hands] instead of allowing it to be transferred to any others [I might] mention may other evils which the Raja's would be productive of but have not leisure at present

I am [etc]
GEORGE VANSITTART

No 6

Translation of a letter from Moynachoura Raja to Mr Vansittart

No date, received 18th July

I have been honored with your perwana ordering me to repair to Midnapore As I am entirely obedient to your command I am heartily disposed to repair to Midnapore and have accordingly set out But this year there has been no reasonable rains the time for cultivation has been in a manner lost Some rains however thro out of season having now come there remains a month for going on with the cultivation I am therefore travelling about from village to village and from hut to hut taking inconceivable pains for the comfort and encouragement of the ryots nevertheless there is no prospect of the pergunna being fully cultivated but only a little here and there I am therefore greatly distressed I have neither time for eating nor sleeping I have not a days not a moments leisure and I was not now present to oversee the cultivation and repairs to the bunds (dams) a whole year would in a manner be lost Through necessity, therefore I have written you this address You are my master

N B —At the time the Raja wrote this letter he remained quiet in his Fort He neither set out towards Midnapore nor moved one step to encourage the ryots in their cultivation The season for repairing the bunds was entirely past and the paddy was almost everywhere sown in the pergunna so that it is almost one continued falsehood from beginning to the end G V

No 7

Translation of a letter from Mr Vansittart to the Moynachoura Raja

The 22nd of Suffer (20th July)

I have received your letter but acquainted you that if ever again you wrote me any evasive answer I would send a party of sepoy and bring you by force This is the second evasion you have made I

have, however, despatched a Jemmdar, and some sapoys, who in case of your making any more will bring you by force. It is requisite that you set out with the said Jemmdar for Midnapore instantly on receipt of this perwana. What you write about repaying the bonds, etc. I am well assured is entirely false. However, as you say there is no prospect of the pergunna being well cultivated, and as a very large balance is due to the Company, I have, therefore, appointed Meertunjee tahsildar that he may collect the Company's revenue, and encourage the ryots in the cultivation of their lands.

A B—With this letter a Jemmdar and twenty sapoys were dispatched. They had orders to accompany the Raj, quietly to Midnapore, without using the least violence, if he met them on the road, or consented to come. . . to bring him by force and their despatch was do . . . and a half, that his Vackeels might give him timely notice. G V

No 8

Translation of a letter from the Moynachoura Raja to Mr Vansittart

No date but received the 23rd July

From my former addreses you are acquainted with my distressed conditions, that being heartily disposed to pay the Company's revenue, I not only applied to that purpose all the collections from the . . . but sold my household effects, and furniture, and borrowed considerable sums of money. You also assisted . . . and showed me greater favour than I know how . . . Notwithstanding this I had no means of . . . the balance which was due . . . by way of Halbanjun* could not be collected this year. In this my distressed situation you have dispatched a tahsildar and sapoys and peons. To save my honour, therefore, I have set out for Calcutta, with the remainder

No 274.

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULFAMPORE

1st August, 1767

SIR,

I should have marched before now, had it not been for yesterday's intelligence which I chose to communicate to you. The answer I shall receive from you shall entirely determine me but I imagine that you will as I do, judge it proper to see what effect my perwana in answer to his will have as if he attends here. I think it certainly adviseable to put off taking notice of what he has done at present as even the presence of an army of ours in an amicable manner will I know, interrupt the collection of the revenue. As to my success I am now pretty easy on that head if I may believe my pones who came latest thence who assure me that he has got not above 500 chewars all together with him that there is no alteration of any kind on the fort and that there are no preparations of any kind. These chewars he has

* Halbanjun is an advanced collection from the ryots out of the rents of the next year. The amount last year from Moynachoura pergunna was Alla Success of my loose hold goods and the jewels of my Gole. By the blessing of Almighty I shall by tomorrow etc take what measures I can for the payment of the Company's revenue and in 5 or 6 days time shall do myself the honour of waiting on you. [On original sheet]

to prevent any further surprise from the thief, and to fall on him, if I order it

If my answer of yesterday warrants my marching, I shall not wait for an answer to this, which, if you please, may be answered by the Jamlunie Road, and by barcaro, for the more certain and expeditious conveyance. My barcaros, who were mostly out on the spy to prevent salt smugglers I have called in, and shall be employed in their proper business. The shroffs when they arrive, shall be employed in the respective Tannas, and the unfit ones discharged.

The Ameynagar Vahel requested this day that I would recall the sepoy from his purgunah, as none of his chawars will remain in their houses nor do their proper business while they remain so that he will not be able to pay the revenue of the . I told them that they were sent for their protection but that if it had a contrary effect from their foolishness, that they would be recalled, but, if his country was plunder'd again he must attribute it to himself.

I am [etc]
J FERGUSON

No 235

[Much defaced]

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE

21st August, 1767.

SIR,

The conduct of Jugurnut Dol [Zemindar of] Gatseela is so extraordinary I have immediately advising you of it. But in order to give you a clear idea of [what] appears the original cause of it I may acquainting you that there are besides the who pay *tuslees* four notorious thieves or robbers who pretend to independence and live solely by and plunder.

Several Zemindars have been induced frequent and repeated thefts and which they impossible to recover to allow them two are promise that they would them others scorn such terms the salt. suffer from their thefts. Of these thieves [one lived] in a part of the Gatseela Purgunah called Dampanwalla the head of the league in [Barahabhum] and a 3rd in Ameynagar and a 4th in Bamsund in the Burdwan Province.

The Zemindar of Raipore first complained terms of the people and said that it is to would not give up some villages to them the cattle were liable to be stole and that particularly of some cattle the Dampanwalla is called had taken from him within. On this I wrote the Zemindar of Gatseela desiring he would send him to me to answer for.

On the back of this came a complaint from of cattle to a considerable amounts by the Dampanwalla in consent with the Raipore thief. On this I sent perwanas the complainants to recover for accordingly went but were answered that they made their rice by stealing, and that if I made them a comfortable they would return what they had taken now and would more otherwise they would continue in their trade and [dis]regard my perwanas. On this I immediately Zemindar

dars in whose purgunahs they resided [immed]iately to bring these insolent fellow to me other[wise] I would look on them as art and part and that them [accord]ngly Tuesday next is the day fix'd upon to bring the return to Gatseela On my perwanas arriving the principal agent who is said to be the soil of the being at that time on the spot was immediately and guarded for some days while the Dewan and Rajah were in, to come themselves to effectually clear up some [comp]laints to which ye (utchan Zeminlar, a neighbour of his at of the Morbunge Raja presented against the Gat[seela] here, and which I shall take another opportunity to at

But the very night before their intended outset the influenced by some bnd councillor aid of course neither he nor Dewan thought ing here tho at the same time he sent me a very asive letter and part of the money he owes me The people whose fear induced them all to run away [exaggerate] matters very greatly, but the true state of the case is that he w nts a kind of indepe dence vs to pay the revenue as agreed but to overlook all the other orders regarding salt thefts etc Ths I gather from his order to his Dewan to send my peon who was stationed at a on the Patna Salt Trade Road safely to me and to say to me that as the thief carried everythng before that it was for fear of his receiving any infort he knew I would not pardon

I set out near a day later than the rest military preparation of all so ts

What steps sh ll be taken in consequence affair depends ent rely on your orders But as you desire me never to conceal you sh ll have them without reserve First then we cannot immed ately proceed as our gun carriages are unfit and it will take some time to co uplet our bildars re[pairs] 2ndly were they all ready the circumstances deserves attention as well as of the sepoys out of the question It would be attended with great difficulties to march our troops and guns through the long grass so fit to conceal the townmen would give them an opportunity of galling us with impunity and after we arrived at the Fort the water in the ditch] occasions the more loss and difficulty in the [entrance] of it will g to extremes if we only becau e he will at least do the essentials of

In the meantime and at the end of two months may not only insist on his delivering and conforming to all orders that may be g[iven out] also oblige him to give up his military on [a n] of being immed ately attacked However Sir if these sentiments do not you do my utmost to execute them successfully I in the meantime would be gl[ad] of your authority to 10 carpenters in order to set my artillery in the field immed ately I having prepar d. purpose

I am [etc]
J BEROUSOV

No 236

TO THE HON BLE HARRY VERELST

MIDNAPUR
3rd August 1767

HON BLE SIR

Enclosed I transmit you the abstract
Midnapore Expenses for the month of July

of

I have in my possession a Copy of Lieut Ferguson's journal of his Western Expedition, but it is not compleat enough for a map to be form'd from it. I shall therefore keep it in my hands for the present in order to make some necessary additions to it, and shall bring it with me when I wait on you in Calcutta, I am afraid you will remind you of Mr Motte's march

The Moynachoura Raja having twice disobeyed my orders for repairing to Midnapore, whither I summoned him in consequence of the balances due from him, and a scheme which he found to evade the payment of his debts, I sent a party of seapoys to bring him by force Upon this he has travelled off to Calcutta in order as he says to procure money for fulfilling his tushkees, but as I imagine to renew his old plan of rendering himself independent of Midnapore. As you are perfectly acquainted with his character, Sir, and the evil consequences which any encouragement given to him would be productive of I should be much obliged to you, if you would order him hither with what money he may have been able to procure The year now draws to a conclusion and he has gleaned his pergunna from thence

I am, etc,
[G VANSITTART]

No. 237

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
The 4th August, 1767
(Received 7th August, 1767)

SIR,

In consequence of the Honble Company's Orders to the Select Committee, you are hereby directed to make the strictest inquiry into the annual Embezzlement of the Revenues of Midnapore and Jellasore from the Time to those Lands were first in our possession until Mr Watts was recalled The intention of the Court of Directors is to attempt recovery by due course of law the second considerable sums which they conceive to have been collected and not placed as they ought to their credit. You are, therefore, to obtain the most satisfactory proofs, and to transmit them properly attested with all convenient dispatch to the Select Committee

For this purpose you are directed to draw out each years Account separately specifying minutely the sums paid into the Treasury, the gross collections, the disbursements, outstanding ballances, and the deficiencies for every year All these Accounts must by duly authenticated by the Dewans, Congoy's¹ and the other officers there employed, so as to produce the most undeniable and legal Proofs in his Majesty's Courts of Judicature

I am, etc,
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL
[Secretary to the Select Committee]

No 238.

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE

5th August, 1767

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 2nd and accordingly send one of Gosaien's along with the bearer. The affairs being represented differently, I am not greatly surprised if the Zemindar's Vakiel here was a man of no great understanding or capacity.

I wrote, the 2nd, of the Gatseela Zemindar's conduct. He has since made overtures in an indirect manner. All the notice I took of them was that I thought it odd that he should allow a thief, a dependant of his, to gain such an influence in his pergunnah, that, as he had sent no direct messengers to explain the real state of the matter, that I would not mention my opinion of it further than that he might hope for everything by rousing himself from this lethargy, seizing this formidable chewar and delivering him into my hands. By my intelligence I understand that he has given himself up for lost, as guilty of ingratitude, and that fear alone prevents his throwing himself at my feet, that those who led him into this error dare not approach him, if we except his mother who was the ring-leader, and that from a tenderness to the handsome fellow whom she gave for lost in being delivered up to me.

Be assur'd Sir, that whether this affair is to be set right by force of arms or negociation that I will do my utmost to have it done effectually.

I am [etc.]

J FERGUSSON

No 239

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMPORE

5th August, 1767

SIR,

A Vakiel having arrived from the Gatseela Zemindar with a letter giving a full account of the affair I wrote you of has induced me to suspend my resolutions, and to put off my march until I have your sentiments of the matter. He begins by telling me that he had, according to my orders, put the chief in irons, and kept him there for some days until his Diwan should set out along with my people for Bulrampore, that as he was in the Fort, he did not think that any force was necessary further than two ponies, that the very night before the intended outset, about thirty or forty thief's chewars came by stealth to set him at liberty, which they effected, and that, as he has no force near him, they escaped with the prisoner, he not being able to retake him.

He acknowledges his fault in being so negligent and from fear of my resentment he put off sending Diwan until he had an opportunity of laying the matter before me as it really was. He further adds that he owes his all to me, that he is ready to pay his *tuslees*, and whatever else is due, and to obey all orders whatsoever that may be sent to him, and begs that we may not attribute that to him as a crime what is really his misfortune, by rendering him suspected. In order to make a fair trial of his sincerity, I answered

this perwana by observing that before his letter came, I understood it had been by force and not by stealth that he was set at liberty that thence I had been induced to write to him that I should soon reach to re-establish him, but that now he writes that he is both able and willing to reduce him himself, that my going will be unnecessary, that he therefore, and his Divan should repair here to receive my advice and instructions regarding the proper measures to be taken in this expedition that it may be effectual. My people assure me he is making no preparations, that he has got about three hundred chawars about him with a view of attacking the chief if order'd, so that the intelligence the other gave was, as I supposed, greatly magnified and in great measure a lie.

If he, on the receipt of perwana should come here I cannot see we have just ground to suspect him if not, we have as good a plan as ever to march, *and he is thrown off his guard by the negotiation I shall therefore wait for your answer to this before I move, having at the same time everything ready to act immediately, if you judge that still properest, but I judged it necessary to acquaint you of this defence of his before I could proceed to act against him*

I have made myself perfectly acquainted with the situation of the residence and dwelling place of the four chawars they communicate one with another, and the two most distant are not from one another above 6 coss. The Zemindars have offer'd if every one agrees to it to seize them without my giving myself any trouble but I doubt if it is political to order them all to arm themselves, as those who have any pique at one another will take that opportunity of plundering their foes villages under pretence of pursuing these the chawars thither. I would therefore at present let them also enjoy repose, and so soon as the rains are over take some of these Tanna chawars, viz of Chhanpore Sankacooolea and Ramgar, with two companies to attack them ordering the Zemindars, in the rear only to keep a guard on their own frontier and to seize them if they attempted to enter their respective pergunas, beginning with the Gatseela pergunah one called the Deimpara Zemindar's

I am [etc]

J FERGUSSON

No 240

To JOHN CARTIER, Esq.,

Export Warehouse Keeper

MIDNAPORE

14th August, 1767.

SIR,

I have been favour'd with your letter of the 9th July. The smallness of the Midnapore bales in comparison with those of the other factories is owing to the necessity we are under the greatest part of the year of transporting them by bullocks to Gongacoolly, the Cassay River being navigable only in the height of the rains.

To avoid the inequality which the Company complain of I have taken care in my present dispatch not to diviate more than two pieces from the standard which I proposed, and shall keep the surplus for a future dispatch, as you mention to be done at Dacca

Above 1000 pieces of Sannoes I have been obliged to return to the March is to be washed over again, as they had put a good deal of conjee in them notwithstanding Mr. Graham's positive prohibition, and indeed those which I have sent are not entirely free from it. Can you inform me whether or not it is the Company's intention to forbid coondy as well as conjee in their Sannoes. Coondy is as I understand nothing more beating. It serves to give the cloth a glossy smooth appearance, but does not make it stiff, and it is very certain that our Sannoes will look very rough and coarse without it.

I am [etc.]
[G VANSHITTART]

No 241.

To G VANSHITTART, Esq

BELURMOTOK

[No date Recd 15th August 1767]

Govindram Divan to Jugernut Dol, Zemindar of Gatsela arrived here two days ago and I delayed writing until I could give you an account of the whole affair at once. As the affair from the beginning was suspected by me to be greatly exaggerated, if not false, I gave orders to those punes who had been there to be kept here, and sent on no other business until the affair was clear'd up.

As soon as the Divan arriv'd, therefore, I myself immediately asked how he could reconcile several points of intelligence I had to his duty, supposing him ignorant of the thief's escape. Then I condescended on several particulars, which he immediately declared to be without the least foundation, on which I ordered these punes to be call'd, two were not to be found, viz. those who had the Prisoner in charge, and a third the salt Peon, on being asked why he left Gatsela, so far from saying what he has said before about his being murder'd if he staid acknowledge that this very Divan had used arguments with him to stay that none of my people should suffer now they were on their guard, and that, if they all run away in that manner, I would certainly believe the Raja concerned.

In a few words I found that I had been imposed on by those rascals who having used violence to extort money, then thought this a good method to prevent discovery. As to the thief's escape his defence is thus so soon as the perwana came, he was seized and my people were order'd to take him away. Tho' they had a great deal more business and tho' I had order'd them on no account to stay there after they had got him, yet they staid several days, pretending fear on the road. The manner in which he escaped was thus on Juggernut Dol's coming to Gatsela, this chief Zemindar was the first who came in, by which means his chewars became all servants about his house and afterwards scarce any more were added to them except those of another Surdaar, who was my guide when the old Zemindar was seized. These Dampara chewars not relishing that their Chief should be a prisoner formed the scheme of setting him at liberty, which they did, but the punes, in whose custody he was neither attempted to defend nor fly to him the Zemindar for assistance but ran off, so that the noise caus'd an alarm on which, having made himself acquainted with cause, he immediately order'd Tackam's Surdaar with his people to pursue and overtake him, on which a

skirmish ensued and some chowars on both sides wounded but the prisoner escaped. All those of my people who were there without any inquiry, betook themselves to flight and spread the alarm. As to reparations of war or anything of that sort he utterly denies it, and desires me if we suspect him that a few persons I can depend on if I please may be sent to make the most particular and exact inspection into that matter that indeed the accident of the thief's escape, and the account his servants would give of the affairs has induced him to put off his setting out to me next day as before was intended, or even sending his Diwan until by writing he has sounded whether I would give him a patient hearing or whether I was prepossessed by the accounts of my servants he requested then my forgiveness and compassion which if granted he would convince me in time to come that he had no bad intentions.

The Diwan went back yesterday and returns with the Raja a 2nd time on Sunday. If you still imagine a company proper to be sent I shall order them to march while the Raja is here as if there is any treachery in the case tho I cannot think it, the Raja is a kind of hostage for the safe conduct of the Europeans to the Fort but Sir (I think) if he comes here wch he doubtless will now we ought to forgive him as he and family living in the Fort will either be obliged to move or seem like prisoners if they remain and it will give great difficulty in collecting the revenues. I thought it incumbent on me in order to be just to communicate his defence as I had done the former intelligence which differs not much from an accusation.

I am [etc]
J FERGUSSON

On enquiry it seems this sort of practice was not confined to Gatsela of extorting rupees wch they called Chirz. The Tanidars people etc tell me that Cugerie peons are allowed (ona) from the Zemindars to whom they go on business. I have therefore thought of writing to all the Zemindars to allow them 2 annas a day while they remain if agreeable to them and no more that if violence is offered them for a courie they have only to complain. One authority who says he has got your perwana I have daily complaints of from Sankacolea and Cohanpore for forcing the country people to work for him etc. I have ordered him to show your perwana if he has one to know for what.

J F

No 242

TO GEORGE VANSITTART ESQ

CALCUTTA
15th August 1767
(Recd 19th do)

SIR

In consequence of the Board's Appointment I have this day delivered over charge of the Collector General's Office to Richard Beecher Esq with him therefore you will in future correspondence on the subject of the Revenues and the same Directions given you by the Board on my appointment you will be pleased to look on to be in force with respect to him.

Herewith the small seal mentioned in my letter of the 24th ultimo

I wish you success and am, Sir,
etc ,

CLAUD RUSSELL

No 213

[To G VANSITTART]

[FORT WILLIAM]

Augt 17th, 1767.

(Recd 20 h)

Sir

Yours of the 14th[?] August I have received Coan dying is so great an advantage to the appearance of some assortments of cloth that the Company I am persuaded can never intend to forbid it tho' at the same time it must injure the cloth in some degree but, as that is not apparent, the practice is not condemned

I am, etc ,

JNO CARTIER

(Export Warehouse Keeper [?])

No 244

To Mr GEORGE VANSITTART Resident at Midnapore

(SECT DEPT)

FORT WILLIAM

The 17th August 1769

(Recd 23rd do)

Sir,

Having thought proper to withdraw the indulgence we granted to the French in the year 1765 to have seapoys at their several subordinates and having received assurances from the Directors and Council of Chandernagore that they had in consequence ordered them to be reduced we desire you will keep a watchful eye over them at your Factory and give us immediate information if they should elude our Resolutions

We are etc ,

H VERÉLST

JOHN CARTIER

JAS ALEXANDER

CLAUD RUSSELL

CHARLES FLOTTE.

No. 245

To RICHD. BECHER, Esq.,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE

21st August 1767

SIR,

Having rece'd information from Mr. Russell..... that he has deliver'd over to you the charge of the Collector-General's Office, I beg leave to assure you, that you will always find me disposed to a ready compliance with your commands, and I request that on all matters of business a free and candid correspondence may be establish'd between us as tending most to our mutual satisfaction and to the benefit of the Company's affairs. I have nothing particular to represent to you at present, and I hope have the pleasure of waiting on you at Calcutta before the settlement of the ensuing year

I am, &c,
[G VANSITTART]

No 246.

To G VANSITTART, Esq.

GATSFELA

22nd August, 1767.

SIR,

In my last from Balrampore I explained to you the whole affair of the Gatsela Raja as set forth by his Divan, and also mentioned his promise of attending me on Sunday the 17th. This not being the case, I not certain whether fear and treachery was the real case of his not coming determined to make myself certain by a personal inspection into his conduct. Accordingly, the 18th no accounts arriving, I set out with 2 companies and about 30 chewars, being all that repeated perwana could draw from both the Sankacooler and Colingore, and arrived at 3 o'clock the road being exceedingly bad, and the bullocks[?] not having come up obliged me to halt at Kelampore in Jambunie, from noon the 19 until 2 next morning when all being ready and some more, about 180 excellent chewars from Jambunie being joined, we proceeded, and yesterday arrived in the Fort. The Divan met us on the road with a letter from the Raja expressing his satisfaction at our coming and we also found that, tho' the villages were deserted, yet it was not from any dissatisfaction but fear, as many of them came to us, whom I confirmed by pane, on which all the rest came to their houses. Notwithstanding of these favourable appearances, I hastened on as much as possible considering the road, and not to forsake the bazar. The Raja could not stand it, conscious to himself of having disobeyed repeatedly my summons to Balrampore and his mother with others crying and entreating in his ears constantly to retire, otherwise that, coming into my hands, his smallest punishment would be perpetual imprisonment, he suffered himself to be dragged into the jungle. On my arrival, I took possession of the Fort placed sentinels on all his effects, and having given orders in such a manner that none of my camp adherents could be guilty of the least violence in the adjacent villages, the country became so self-satisfied that every one returned to their respective homes, and the Raja sent word that if I would receive and

judge favourably his repeated misdemeanours that he would wait on me, and submit himself to my discretion. I sent him word that there were several errors of which he had been guilty, that these must all be amended, and those who induced him to be guilty of them drove away, that, as he submitted himself to me I would forgive, after rectifying these mistakes and taking proper precautions that none such should On these conditions sent him orders ordering him to come to-morrow in the morning, without fail and delay, otherwise I would construe it in a design of amusing me, which I would not fail to punish. He accordingly came this morning and I promised him forgiveness, and that he should still remain Zemindar, unless a future offence should evidence him incorrigible. I proposed, therefore, acting as you before desired me in case of non-resistance, which was the case.

I was ashamed to write to you until I was sure of preventing any bad consequences which my delay and confidence (contrary to your opinion) might have produced, or fallen a sacrifice to my own blind security, the former being now the case, I have resumed my pen again with some assurances as my sentiment regarding the affairs here in the event proved to have been not without foundation. I hope for your favor soon after the arrival of this to confirm me in my intention, or to give what other orders you think proper after this explanation of the affair.

Believe me to be, Sir, [etc.]

J FERGUSON

No 247

To G VANSITTART, Esq

GATEBELLA FORT

24th August 1767

Sir,

I have received your favours of the 18th and 20th. Having settled everything with the Raja, and let him understand how far he was dependent, and likewise the lenity of our Government by which he procured a pardon he had scarcely any title to, I proceeded to assure him that his only way of shewing the sense he had of this lenity was by explicit obedience in time to come, as if he transgressed again he would undoubtedly be ruined that would (now being acquainted with the circumstances of the insolence of my servants) put an effectual stop to that and that, thus being without a shadow of excuse in future, if he [transgressed] . . . immediate punishment . . . order'd him, to drive away at once evil counsellors, and acquainted him that a company should remain in the Fort, not choosing to put the other alternative, as it would give him a notion that we have a higher opinion of his strength than he has himself, whereas I would have him to believe that no obstacle is unsurmountable to us, and that we hold his ditch and rampart as nothing.

Your perwans shall be duly delivered to the Jatbuni zemindar, but forgive me, Sir, if unasked I acquaint you that the said zemindar has no less than five Nankars value Rs 300 in his purgunah and that long ago he complained to me that if the Cogoi eat his plains, for the five I saw myself are entirely the prime of his . . . not possibly pay his tas[hees] . . . that time desired him to re[main] quiet and that I would represent the affair to you.

The truth is, I do believe that he cannot pay his tushees, if these five particular villages remain Nankars, as I am sensible that the fellows I had with me, being his bitter enemies (for what reason I know not), took every method to endeavour to have him supplanted in his zemindary, and this of screwing his tushees one after wch they took possession of these villages as Nankars without so much as acquainting me. I am bound to be his advocate, as he is the readiest of all the zemindars to obey orders, attended me himself on the last expedition hither, and immediately on hearing of my outlet, sent a vakiel and pikes after me this time

I am [etc]

J FERGUSON

No 248

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMFORD

27th August, 1767.

SIR,

Yesterday I arrived here with one Company from Gatsela, where I left the other according to the sense I had of your orders from former letters, having taken particular pains to make the Raja sensible of his real situation and dependence on the Company and I believe he will act properly in future I have forwarded in your perwana to the Jatbunra zemindar, as I have also received yours regarding the Belabria Zemindar's affair, and a copy of your orders on the head

To save you trouble I have repeatedly wrote to the Cutwal concerning some of the Bazar begaries who have run hence as also the Moodie of it, but he has never either answered me nor sent them Now I must mention it to you as all those I left with the Company at Gatsela will run in all probability, if not deterr'd by the punishment of the others I also wrote for taylor, shoemakers ferriers, etc, armorers of wch my seapoys are in general need but not one of either sort are come It is on that account that I am obliged to trouble you I should also be obliged to you for a headsmith to oversee and give directions having abundance of working hands

Believe me [etc]

J FERGUSON

N.B — I have received yours of 24th, I am glad to be confirm'd by it seeing I had already done what you before proposed In my last, I gave my reasons for not giving the Raja the alternative — J F

No 249

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

BULRAMFORD

30th August, 1767

SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you two days ago Along with this I enclose a return of my seapoys I yesterday had a visit from the Zemindar of Gatsela here He had mentioned to me in the Fort that he proposed marrying a daughter of the Fulkisma family, and yesterday he came, he said, to ask my leave After a little stay, he desired a private

audience, in wch he said a great deal about the lenity I had shewn him, that now his eyes were open, that he saw himself in a true light, and was sensible of what his duty was, that he was determined in future to act that part which I had instructed him was both most prudent for himself and would not fail to be agreeable to me, and concluded by adding that I must forgive him if he proposed a small token of his gratitude, and insisted that I would permit him to take the opportunity of presenting me with Rs 300 which tho' far inferior to his inclinations yet he was obliged to confine himself to on account of his circumstances To this I answered that I would not accept of anything at present nor would I absolutely deny acceptance but that I could not reconcile it to my duty to receive for myself while part of the Company's tushes are due, that after that was given in I would give him an answer

Now, Sir, in pursuance of my resolution communicated to you some time ago, I mention of myself this affair to you, though I really believe that had I received it and held my tongue, you never would have heard it from the donor he, in all appearance, gives it from his heart But this would have transgressed the laws of honor wch I hope never to be guilty of, and I have also to mention it to set the disposition of the Zemindar in as clear a light before you as I can

It remains with you to point the propriety with wch I can accept of this, or whether I am to refuse

There are two or three zemindars who have applied to me about villages wch their neighbours had taken from them during the anarchy wch prevailed here I imagine you will chuse to defer these enquiries untill your visit here, but if you chuse to have them settled now I shall on your orders, either make the best enquiry I can or send the complainants into Midnapore

If my remaining in the jangles another year should be certun, I should esteem it a favour, if you would not grant perwanas for cutting wood to Pagri (black) fellows as if you gentlemen at Midnapore chuse or any others who may obtain your perwanas for wood, you will be furnished by me at as reasonable a rate as the (black) fellows cut it and it is only by something in this way, wch perhaps you'll be good enough to digest in a plain, that I can force any considerable advantage by remaining wch I am convinced you had in your eye, when you proposed my stay here

Believe me always empress'd with a due sense of my obligation to be Sir, [etc]

J FERGUSON

No 250

MIDNAPORE
1st September 1767

To RICHD BUCHAN, Esq.

Collector-General

Sir,

I have been favor'd with your letter of 29th August enclosing the extract from Fort William Consultations, and am much obliged to you for the desire you express to render my situation agreeable to me

The 4th of this month is the last day of the present Orissa year 1174 but it is advisable to defer making the settlement for 1175 till the end of October or beginning of November; by that time the paddy being almost ready for cutting a pretty certain judgement may be formed how the crop will turn out in the several pergunnahs, any losses which may have happened to any of them, by a superabundance or a want of rain or any other accidents may be taken into consideration, and the Company's revenue may be so adjusted as to be actually realised, and that there may be no fear of balances arising at the end of the year, in the mean while the collections will be carried on agreeably to last years settlement

I am, etc,
G VANSITTART

No 251

To G VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA
3rd September, 1767
(Recd 4th do)

Sir,

I could wish to have Lieutenant Fergusson's Journal completed as soon as possible that we may get a chart of his Expedition to the Westward laid down

I cannot procure you a copy of Motte's¹ march till you come to Calcutta, as the sickness of the Draftsman has delayed it

I have neither seen nor heard of the Mina Chowra Raja Had he made the least complaint to me, I should have sent him back immediately

I am Sir,
H VERELST

No 252

To G VANSITTART, Esq

BULRAMPORE
5th September, 1767

Sir,

I ought to have sooner acknowledged your obliging supply of cheese wch you have repeatedly sent me also that having received a supply of that as well as of several other things from Calcutta your goodness in that respect was not now, of such consequence as before now Wednesday, that part of this Tanna's treasure wch was present, was sent to Midnapore I have not been wanting in pressing the others who are behind That of the Gatseela Zemindar I have choose to take here for this reason as he requires mere packet as the circars call it He is behind on account of his marriage but I imagine will send his with the Janie² in a few days, after which I shall leave him to his proper Lanna

Your orders regarding Panchinund I have order d a puno to see executed I must request another supply of paper, what I have being near its finis

Believe me, with regard [etc]

J FERGUSSON

¹ See footnote on p 138

² Janna?

No. 253.

MIDNAPORE:
11th September, 1767.To RICH BECHER, Esq
Collector-General

Sir,

Herewith I transmit you the Midnapore Treasury Accounts for the month of August, together with 3 Bills of Exchange amounting to Curr. Rupees 55,000 You will excuse its not having been sent sooner Some days delay has been unavoidably occasioned by the necessity of adjusting all the Pergunna Accounts at the close of the year. The whole amount of the Rents at present outstanding in the provinces of Midnapore and Jellesore is Alla Sicca Rs 2,533-11-3 of which 1,569-0-10 are on Acct. of the balances of 1173 and only 964-1-13 on account of the year 1174 The particulars you will be informed of by the annexed account The balances of Coroolchour and Seebpore were kept upon the Company's books by Mr Graham at the Settlement of the last tashkees, as it was then doubtful whether the lands wherein they had arisen might not if scrutinized, be found capable of discharging them They were accordingly scrutinized in January and February last but proved to be barely sufficient for the payment of their present rents Lampchour has in like manner been scrutinized, and has appeared to have been really overrated, as a great quantity of ground there lies uncultivated for want of a competent number of inhabitants The tashkees of Sayr Cussary was settled not on any fixed certainty, but only by computation, and the duties collected have this year, as they did last, fallen short of the computation which was made You will perceive then from these circumstances that the foregoing balances cannot with justice be demanded I would propose, therefore, that they should not be kept an useless entry upon the Company's Books, but written off at once as irrecoverable to Profit and Loss With respect to Tanna Futteabad, the Zemindars of that district which lies beyond the Buburika on the Morattoo confines, will never pay their Rents, till an arm'd force be sent to reduce them This may e'er long perhaps be thought proper to be done, and therefore the balance may as well be kept upon the Books, as it will in such cases be recovered I shall be obliged to you if you will favor me with your Orders on these subjects as soon as you conveniently can, I am &c,

[G VANSITTART]

ACCOUNT of Rents outstanding in the Midnapore and Jellesore Provinces at the close of the Orissa Year 1174, answering to the 4th of October 1767.

| Where outstanding | Acct of the Year 1173 | Acct. of the Year 1174 | Total |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Pergunna Coroolchour | 327 14 1 | .. . | 327 14 10 |
| Pergunna Seebpore | 1,176 3 5 | .. . | 1,176 3 5 |
| Tanna Futteabad .. | 65 7 7 | 80 6 10 | 145 13 2 |
| Pergunna Lampchour .. | | 498 6 10 | 498 6 10 |
| Sayr Cussary ... | | 385 5 4 | 385 5 4 |
| Alla Sicca Rs. ... | 1,569 9 10 | 964 1 13 | 2 531 11 11 |
| N.B.—The Western Jungles are included in Midnapore Province. | | | |

No. 254

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA :

14th September, 1767.

(Pced. 16th do)

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your letters of the 1st and 11th instant, which you make No 2 and 3 As altering the course of the numbers may mislead us in making references, I think those of my predecessor may as well be continued in which case these letters will be No 17 and 18.

For the reasons given in No 17, I approve of the Settlement for 1175 being defer'd till the end of October, but are of opinion it might not to be postponed later.

Your Treasury Account for August with three Bills of Exchange amounting to Current Rupees 58,600 came enclosed in No 18 and very readily admit of your plea for not transmitting them sooner. The wages paid to Dank Coasids in your accounts charges are nearly on a par with former years, and likewise the amount paid under the head of Pergunnah servants I should however, be obliged to you for a particular account of the latter The allowance to the Canoongoes you observe is agreeable to the Settlement made by the Select Committee wherefore you did well to pay it them, tho' the necessity of such a charge does not strike me at present

I entirely agree with you that the balances of the Pergunnahs Coroolchour, Sorpore, Lampochour, and Coasary, as set forth in your account, might as well be wrote off to profit and loss but as in this case the Company would quit all pretensions to a claim on these accounts I think it may be necessary to keep these several heads still open, stating the balances fully in the entries and values of them at a rupee each This would tend to preserve the influence which such outstanding Balances will always command, and at the same time the Revenues would be freed from that deception which precarious balances too frequently occasion

Regarding Tanna Futteabid as their appears a probability of receiving the Balances, I would, therefore have the whole of it remain on your Books

I am, etc,

RICHD BECHER,

Collector-General

No 255

MIDNAPUR

19th September, 1767.

TO RICHD BECHER, ESQ.,

Collector-General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 14 The reason you mention for chusing that the numbers of letters should be continued instead of being begun afresh appears very just I have numbered this accordingly, and

beg you will make the necessary alterations in my former ones. The wages to the dawk coolies are the same as were paid last year, a list of the Pergunnah Servants I transmit you inclosed. It's only difference from the proceeding one is the addition of Tanna Bulrampore and Tanna Janpore which have been lately subdued Pergunnas Moynachoura. . . I omit saying anything at present on the subject of the Canoongoes Office, as I hope in a few days to have the pleasure of seeing you in Calcutta. A set of the revenue books I purpose bringing with me to Calcutta, and the balances of Coroolchour, Seepore, etc, shall then be settled in whatever manner you think the most proper. For my part, however, I must confess that, in the present instance, I do not apprehend the keeping of the account open can be productive of any advantage. The tushkees of these pergunnas will every year be rated as high as they can afford to pay, and if it can always be realized, we shall have reason to think ourselves very fortunate. To recover any balances will be absolutely impracticable, and yet I fear that, whilst the accounts remain open, our Hon'ble Masters will entertain hopes of its being done, and perhaps attribute their disappointment to the Resident's neglect. Coroolchour, Seepore and Tutteabad excepted, the balances of last year were all wrote off by the Select Committee's Orders, and those I believe were only suffered to remain because it was doubtful whether they might not be recovered. Loud complaints are made throughout these districts of the unfavourableness of the season, that very little rain fell till the latter end of August, and that in consequence great part of the paddy was burnt up by the drought, or destroyed by worms. These complaints tho' a good deal exaggerated are far from being without foundation. It was with no small difficulty I so far obviated them so as to prevent their occasioning any Balances at the conclusion of the year 1174, and I am apprehensive that they will be the cause of some trouble at the ensuing tushkees. I have, however, taken all possible measures for the security of the Company's interest, and flatter myself that their loss (if any) will be but inconsiderable. Till the Time of settling the Tushkees the Zemindars &c, will be everywhere prevented from applying to their own use any part of the produce of their lands. The strictest inquiries will be made into the real state of the damages which have been suffered and those Pergunnas which have been loudest in their complaints will be scrutinized.

[G VANSITTART]

No 256

To Mr GEORGE VAN SITTART, at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
September 30th, 1767
(Recd Oct 2nd)

SIR,
We have received your letters of the 12th ultimo and the 10th instant, with the Bills of Exchange enclosed

We are etc,
JOHN CARTIER
CLAUD RUSSELL
WM ALDERSEY
CHARLES FLOYER
(Committee of Trade)

No 257

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA
26th October 1767.
(Recd. 27th do)

SIR,

As the season now approaches for holding the Poonah at Midnapore, in order to settle the rents that are to be collected the ensuing year, I recommend to you to be attentive to the Company's interest, by which I mean that they should receive the same rents as the ryotts can afford to pay, and at the same time enjoy the ease and comforts that people in their situation of life ought to do

As I understand that rents under the title of Mangun, etc., have been often times collected by the Zemindars and Talookdars on some of the Bazyjameen lands in an unsettled and oppressive manner, I would recommend that the said lands should be freed from such arbitrary exactions, and that in their room an established rate of rent should be fixed proportionably to what from time to time has been levied. The Patnagott and Sayr Naran-gur, being at present, as you represent, collected by various hands from many districts, independent of the Zemindar, and at an expense that may be saved by directing the future collections to be made by the Zemindars in the several districts—which will tend much to the ease and happiness of the tenants, support of the proper authority of the Zemindar, and advantage to the Company, as there is the greatest desire to think more is collected than is brought to account, which the Zemindars themselves will readily agree to pay if the collections are put under their direction

You will please, Sir, to be attentive to the chakeran lands can be resumed with propriety, and to give the necessary orders for reducing the forts that still remain in possession of the natives in Tana Fetteabad, and, as I understand there are quantities of land still uncultivated in the districts under our Residency, I strongly recommend it to you Sir, to give every reasonable encouragement for people to settle and improve such lands, by which means the Company in time will reap considerable advantage, and I must own it is the mode of increasing their revenues I am most anxious to promote. The Midnapore accounts for the month of September are received with bills for 80,600 current rupees, which I doubt not will be duly paid when your Residency shall have credited from the account

I am etc,
RICHD BECHER,
Collector General

No 258

TO MR GEORGE VAN SITTART, Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
The 9th November 1767
(Recd 12th do)

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon ble President and Council to transmit you the accompanying papers, and to request you will cause the purport of them to be made known at your Factory

I am, etc.,
SIRGEON DOZ,
Secretary

No 259.

TO ALL THE GENTLEMEN IN THE COMPANY'S CIVIL SERVICE

FORT WILLIAM :

The 9th November 1767.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to acquaint you that all persons who want to remit money to Europe by Bills on the Hon'ble Company are to send their names to the Accountant, specifying the amounts they require so that a Register may be laid before the Board for the same by the 21st instant, when such claims as we deem proper to be complied with will be admitted.

I am, GENTLEMEN, etc ,

SIMEON DOZ,

Secretary

No 260.*

TO ALL THE GENTLEMEN WRITERS IN THE COMPANY'S SERVICE

FORT WILLIAM .

The 9th November 1767.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to acquaint you that the undermentioned extracts from the Proceedings of the Committee of Inspection are entirely approved of by them, and that they expect an implicit obedience be paid to the directions therein contained

I am, &c ,

SIMEON DOZ,

Secretary

- 1 With respect to the servants necessary to be kept by a Writer without a family, the Committee are of opinion he should be allowed two and a cook one for the immediate care of his house and charge of his effects, and another to attend him when he goes out, or to assist in the charge of his effects and house in case of sickness to the other .
- 2 It is recommended that an order be issued that no writer shall be allowed to keep a horse without the express permission of the Governor, or be permitted, either of himself or jointly with others, to keep a garden house
- 3 It is further recommended that the writers be enjoined to wear no other than plain clothes

(True extract)

SIMEON DOZ,

Secretary

No. 261.

MIDNAPORE :

10th November 1867.

To RICHD. BECHER, Esq.,

Collector-General.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 20th October, you may depend upon my paying all possible attention to the Company's interest and the advancement of their Revenue, as far as can be done without oppression or hardship on the Zemindars and Ryots; to attempt it further might be productive of a present advantage, but I imagine would by no means be agreeable to them, as it would render their Government odious, and tend to the ruin and desolation of the country which their permanent interest undoubted[ly] requires should be maintained in as happy and flourishing a state as possible. The mode of increase, therefore, which you recommend, Sir, coincides entirely with my own sentiments, and is what I have been, and shall be, particularly attentive to. When in April and May last, I visited the several Pergunnas belonging to the Midnapore and Jalesore Chuklaes, I found upon enquiry that there were near 80,000 Begas of land uncultivated, exclusive of what was purposely left waste for roads, &c., and what was deemed unfit for cultivation. Of this quantity I then provided for the cultivation of 31,000 begas, and I flatter myself that the whole will be cultivated in this and another year whereby the Company's Revenue may be considerably improved, and the Zemindars at the same time receive a reasonable profit.

What with the severe drought in the months of July and August, and the violent floods the beginning of October, it is very certain that the Midnapore and Jalesore Chuklaes have in many parts suffered very considerable, in so much that the Zemindars and Taluckdars of several pergunnas (to the amount I believe two or three lakhs of Rupees) will chuse rather to have their lands rustboded than agree to the same rents as they paid last year. In such case what is to be done? Shall a rustbode take place or shall a compromise be made? I would advise the former. It will effectually prevent any from complaining who can really afford to pay, and will make amends for the present loss by the advantage which will hereafter ensue, from the perfect knowledge it will give us of the real nature of the lands; the expence will be about 2½ per cent.

What you recommend concerning the Bazy Zamin, the Chakiran Lands the Patnajat and the Sayr Narrangur I will endeavour to carry into execution, and will write you fully on the subject in a future letter. ...

I am, etc.,

[G VANSITTART]

No 262

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq, Resident at Midnapore

CALCUTTA

11th November 1767

(Recd 12th do)

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to request you will stop and return all such Bearers as pass through your Districts to Ballasore without our Perwannahs.

I am, etc.,

NICHUS GRUBER,

(Zemindar)

No 263

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA

14th November 1767

Sir,

I was duly favoured with your letter of the 10th, and am glad to find you have so good a prospect of cultivating the unimproved grounds in the Purgunnahs of Midnapur and Jelasor Chucklas, and doubt not your attention to effect this as expeditiously as circumstances will admit

I have mentioned to Mr Verelst your proposals of the lands in the Midnapur and Jelasore Chucklas who agrees with me in opinion that an examination should be immediately made into the sufferings of the Ryots from the draughts and floods and that an equitable allowance ought to be made for the future, as an hustabood made after this time would lead the Ryotts to expect a reduction of his rent to be continued another year when there was no reason for it

You will, therefore, act conformably hereto, and so soon as you can properly ascertain what losses the ryotts have already sustain from these causes, I desire you will advise me thereof, and that you will favour me with your opinion

I am, etc ,

RICHARD BECHER,

Collector-General

No 264

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq,

Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE

17th November 1767

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 14 A Hustabood being an exact scrutiny, not only into the losses which any district may have sus-

tained, but into the real amount of its produce could not, I apprehend, lead the ryots to expect any future deduction, but would rather be a means of increasing the Company's revenue, since by making us perfectly acquainted with the extent and value of everyone's possessions, as well as with the loss which he may now have sustained, it would thereby..... [secure us] both from present and from future impositions. As, however, it would take place in those pergunnas which have most severely suffered, it is not to be doubted but there would be a considerable decrease in the Company's revenue this year. The principal advantage which I proposed by it for the present was to stop all complaints from those pergunnas which can afford to pay their rents, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the season. With this view I have taken every measure as if it was actually determined to Bustobool whatever pergunnas should refuse to agree to last year's tushkees. The consequence has been that many of the zemindars and taluqdars in the chucklas are now ready to agree, whereas the complaint of inability was before general, and, as I have great reason to believe I shall thereby be about to settle the tushkees in a very satisfactory manner considering the losses which have really happened, I hope you will excuse my taking the liberty to pursue the same measures for a few days longer. The amount of the losses, according to the accounts which the zemindars and taluqdars delivered to me, was about one half the produce of the two chucklas. As these could not be considered, hircarals and mohurriers were sent into the pergunnas to make a general examination. All are not yet returned, but from the reports of those who are, it appears that the amount of the losses partly by the draught and partly by the floods is a four sixth part—of the produce. Now supposing a stricter examination should discover that instead of a four a sixth part only has been destroyed, yet if a proportionable allowance be made the reduction of the Revenue will still be so considerable that our employers, I fear, would in a great measure attribute it to our mismanagement. I will write you further on this subject in a day or two, and shall then expect your final orders.

[G VANSITTART]

No 265.

TO MR. GEO VANSITTART

FORT WILLIAM :
17th November 1767.
(Recd. 19th do)

SIR,

I request you will make known to the Military Gentlemen belonging to the sepoy's of your Divisions that Bills of Exchange on the Company will be granted by the next ship to be despatched, and desire such of them as want to remit money to England to specify the amount therefore to Mr. Witts, Sub-Accountant.

I am, etc,
H VERELST.

No 266

To G VANSITTART, Esq

BULDAHAT

20th November 1767

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your's of the 17th, before the arrival of it I sent off the perwannas of this Tanna with strongest term'd ones from myself I could to both Tanna

My bills I hope by this time are arrived. The field pieces and all necessary appendages will be in readiness to march at that time

Let me now both acknowledge my great thankfulness and satisfaction from your extraordinary obliging paragraph which concludes your letter I shall only say that my endeavours shall not be wanting to deserve by my conduct your protection and regard

I must request that you will please if you think it necessary that a further light may be given from ye Congori's books regarding Aurungabad purgunnah, as my utmost search and inquiry here can give no light into it, for I even promised to apply to you and procure the purgunnah for a brother of the present Hurrain's Zemindar of Mhan Boison, provided, he could give an exact acct. of it, but he denied any knowledge of the name or place. The Mhan's people I have examined threatened, and cross-questioned to no purpose. This brother of the Zemindar is a complainant and claimant on the Mhan Purga. He is put off until your arrival, as is every other affair of any consequence, since you first wrote me of your intentions of being here in person

I am [etc.,]

J FERGUSSON

No 267

To Mr GEORGE VANSITTART

BELVIDERE

27th November 1767

(Recd 24th do)

SIR,

In consequence of some regulations which have been lately made by the zemindar for the keeping the bearers at the Presidency in due order, several sets of the Oresh cast have left their Masters within the last two or three days. Upon which account I have to request that you will order out parties of sepoys to all the gauts or passes that lead into the Kuttaek Province with directions to take up every bearer who are travelling that way without the zemindar's permission and when a considerable number shall have been laid hold of, you will be able to send them hither under a guard

I am, etc.,

H VERELST

No 268

To GEO VANSITTART, Esq

BAMIN BOON

November, 28th 1767

(Recd 29th do)

SIR,

Having information of Ozuderam and several of his adherents being seen a very few days ago at Singjore in the Zemindary of Ranny Serimunny, do request your assistance that in case they be found there or in your District they may be seiz'd and delivered to me

I remain, etc ,

C. COLLINS

Lt 2nd Battn of Sepoys,

Commanding at Bamin Boon

No 269

MIDNAPORE

The 29th November 1767

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq ,

Collector General

SIR

In my letter of the 20th I acquainted you that considering the losses which have really happened, I was in hopes of being able to settle the tushkees in a very satisfactory manner. The enclosed papers of proposals will I hope appear to you in that light. The whole amount of the deductions is 13 350 Rupees this being allowed to those pergunnas which have suffered the severest losses and are the least able to bear them the Zemindars, &c, then agree to the same tushkees as was settled for last year. One request, however, they make that either the tegavy lent them by the orders of the Select Committee may be increased to 600 Rs. or else that sum may be withheld for the present and collected with the rents of next year. A compliance with this request appears to me very necessary not only, on account of the diminution, which they will this year sustain in their income, but as they will undoubtedly be obliged in order to carry on the cultivation of their lands to make larger advances than usual to the ryots whose crops have suffered by the unfavourableness of the season. It is moreover to be observed that this will be no real loss to the Company and that it is much inferior to the reduction which would befall the revenue were an allowance to be made proportionable to the damages that have happened. Inclosed I likewise transmit you an account of the Patnajat, whereby you will perceive that by joining them to the pergunnas they belong to, their revenue will be increased from 8 000 to 12 000 Rupees besides near 1,000 Rupees which will be saved in the charges of Collections. The Ryots of these Patnas express great apprehension that the Zemindars will oppress them, but I do not think this an argument of any weight as they will still be entitled to and

receive the same protection from our Government as all the rest of the inhabitants

I am, &c ,

[G VANSITTART]

As soon as the tushkees of these districts is settled I propose repairing to the Western Jungles, and I hope the increase which may be there levied will make amends for the deductions here

No 270

MONGALPOORA

December 2nd, 1767

SIR,

I am favor'd with yours of the 2nd inst also Bengal chalann inclosed The Shikhar of Bamin Boon has sent me a chalann of things recd from your people, which differs from yours however all the effects are of so small consequence that I don't think it worth enquiry. The only news is that Ladder Sing is run into the woods after having abandoned the place to me, and station'd Chokeys all around, from which infer he will turn out an enemy I have been here then five days I conclude

I beg leave, etc ,

C COLLINS

No 271

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

BAMIN BOON

December 3rd, 1767

SIR,

A party of mine being (as I had the honor to inform you in my last), in the jungles in pursuit of Ozuderam, have taken some of his adherents, but, as they write me, himself escaped by bribing the Deigwar of Amundpore I think it necessary to acquaint you of this, Sir, that, if that be true, you may inflict what punishment on him he may appear to you to deserve. However, inclose the Bengal Chit sent by the jamaudtar that you may be better able to judge.

I find my people have in the pursuit been necessarily led into your districts which I have strictly charged them to avoid entering if it could possibly be avoided. However my orders to the Jamaudtar for the good behavior of his people are so strict that I flatter myself none of your ryots will suffer any damage. Should they on the man who does it being pointed out, you may depend, Sir he shall meet with due correction. I am now to request, Sir, that you will please to order your people to destroy the houses etc of the bauditi that may be within your limits. I having forbid my men from doing it that there might be no cause of complaint

I remain, etc ,

C COLLINS

Please Sir, to return the Bengal chit

No 272

BAMIN BOON
December 4th 1767
(Recd 5th, do)

Sir,

Having fresh Proofs of Rainny Serimunny's harbouring Ozunderam and Takeram and having certain accts of their being now at Singapore, have in obedience to orders from Burdwan directed my Party to endeavour to seize them there Am now to request you will please, Sir to order your People to co-operate with mine in order to prevent their escaping and to facilitate their being seized should they have fled further into your District

As the Rainny is one of your Dependents, Sir, I leave her to you but beg leave to observe that if she continues to harbour these vermin, one of the main objects of my Detachment must fail If you require living witnesses of the people in question being protected by her can send them you.

I beg leave, etc,
C COLLINS

No 273

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

BAMIN BOON
December 5th, 1767

Sir,

I was this morning favour'd with your's per Peon The man is one of our Matchlocks and says he has a house there, and went to get some victuals As to Ozonderam, intend sending you a man who can perhaps inform you more of the Rainny's sheltering him than you yet know, and says he can even point out the places they hide in I should have received your favor sooner, but having been absent a day or two did not return till late this morning

I beg leave, etc,
C COLLINS *

No 274

To GEO VANSITTART, ESQ

BAMIN BOON
December 6th, 1767

Sir,

Two of the prisoners taken in the last excursion are on their way to you for what examination you may think necessary to prove the defection of Rainny Serimunny, and that the Chuars have taken refuge in your Province (I mean several Principals) I have questioned them strictly, and this is the amount of their depositions Luckow Contal says that Ozunderam is now in the Zemry of the Rainny, That she furnishes him with Oil, Tobacco, Money, etc., etc, that she has three horses of Ozunderam's at her house, that she ordered her Boutique Men to furnish them with what they might want, that Ozunderam's and Takeram's wives and families are at Gubrow in her Territories, that when he was in her country they resided at Goverda

* One characteristic of Collins letters is the economy in personal pronouns.

Bum Doly, who says that he belongs to the Rainny, deposes that Ozuderam is now at Goverda, that Takeram's and Ozuderam's Families are at Gubrow, where they are supplied by the Rainny, that Ozuderam used to send him money and he provided necessaries for him and his party, that he has relations among them

Gopal Sinney a Sardar of our Matchlocks accompanies them by my order (he will give you a letter from me) He is very capable of informing you Sir of many material circumstances having led our Party on the last Excursion

I am now, therefore to request Sir, you will be pleased to send proper force to seize these people, and am more earnest in this remonstrance as I find myself obliged to collect all I can spare of my Detachment to pay a visit to a neighboring Raja, who I find, also protects the Chuars, and only sends me an unmeaning answer to my representations on that head So must endeavour to seize all I can find in his Country I reckon I shall be gone about ten days.

May I beg Sir, to be favor'd with an answer to this by return of Cosed

I remain, with great Respect,

SIR,

Your obedt H^{ble} Servant,

C COLLINS

PS—I find Setteram is the active man for the Chuars in the Rainny's country Should your people, Sir, be so fortunate as to seize any of the Chuars, please to keep them till my return of which I will give you notice Any letter directed to me here will reach me

Since writing the foregoing am favor'd with your's Sir, of the 5th As to Man Sing leave him to you to do as may seem to you equitable You inform me of having sent a Party to act with me which being returned in my absence have sent another with my Sergeant, in order, if possible, to do the business effectually I have ordered him to return as soon as possible as I want to march, for reasons herein to you, Sir, assigned and do request in my absence the assistance of your people to catch any of the principals nam'd in my instructions, viz Ozuderam and Takeram or their Adherents found in your limits

I once more remain, Sir, etc

O^cC

I shall do myself the Honor to write you the Days' march

No. 275

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

FORT WILLIAM
6th December 1767
(Recd 4th, do)

SIR

You will please to furnish Mr Portsmouth with a Company of Seapoys who are to serve as an escort to the survey he is proceeding to make of your Province

I am, etc,

H V ERIST

No 276

BAMIN BOOM,
December 8th, 1767

SIR,

I am just now favoured with yours am sorry to hear what the Jimaundar relates and more sorry to find a great deal of it is true I never meant, Sir, that my parties should traverse your Limits without a cause and tho' my fear of any disorder happening between the two Jitmaundars, should they be together, ordered a Sergeant, thinking that he might have weight enough among them to prevent any disorders As to his going to Anundipore I told him he might, as I thought your Jemaundar and he could by that means concert their schemes better, but never meant him to remain in your limits any longer than there was certain intelligence where the chours were As your people have been injured Sir, I am ready to give them satisfaction, if you desire it by bringing the Sergeant to a Court Martial, but I own it would at present distress me to part with him However, it shall be as you please You may depend Sir, nothing of this kind shall happen again nor shall my people enter your bounds improperly I shall march to-night to Chandercona

I am, Sir, etc,
C COLLINS

No 277

MIDNAPORE
9th December 1767TO R BECHER ESQ,
Collector General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 2nd I am sensible of the readiness of these people to take advantage of precedents and therefore, nothing could have induced me to advise the acceptance of the proposals I transmitted you but a conviction than an enquiry into the advantages which have really happened would have occasioned a much heavier loss to the Company I have taken all possible measures, however, to prevent the present deductions from being productive of any future claims and I flatter myself have effectually guarded against that inconvenience To morrow I propose setting out for Berhamptore The business there I hope to settle in a few days and I shall then transmit you the tashkees kisbundi for the whole of the district under my charge

[G VANSITTART]

No 278

TO MR G VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA
11th December 1767

SIR,

I have only received your favour of the 9th instant with your Treasury Account for the month of November and two Bills of Exchange upon the Military Paymaster General for Current Rs 300, also an invoice of 17

chests of Treasure containing 100 000 sicca weight, on the arrival of which you shall be advised

I am,
Your most obedient, etc.,
RICHARD BECHER,
(Collector-General)

No 279

TO THE HON'BLE H VERELST, ESQ

BULRAMPORE
The 13th December 1767

HON'BLE SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 6 and have ordered a Company of sepoy to attend Mr Portsmouth

Since my arrival here Pitumber Singh, uncle to Juggurut Singh the present Raja of Singboom, (who is now kept under confinement by his cousin Sowanaut Sing), has waited on me on the part of his Nephew, who supplicates the Company's assistance and is desirous of putting his territories under their protection, and paying them an annual Revenue. The account which Pitumber Sing and his attendants have given me of Singboom is as follows —It is bounded on the North by Patcomb, on the West by Nagpore and Gongpore, (Moratta Districts) on the South by Coongur and Mohrbunge on the East by Buraboom and Gaiseila two pergunnas belonging to these Jungles, and it stretches itself in length from North East to South-West between 40 & 50 coes and in breadth from North West to South East about 8 or 10. It formerly contained near 14,000 villages but only about 500 are at present in the Raja's possession, of the others some are gone to ruin and the rest are in the hands of the Coles, a tribe of plundering banditti. The face of the Country is in general plain and open it contains only a few straggly (*sic*), hills, has very little Jungle in it, and no fortresses of importance. The Raja is by marriage a distant relation of the Sumbulpore Raja there is a constant correspondence between the two districts and an uninterrupted intercourse of merchants. They are situated from each other about 90 coes, and there is a tolerable good road the whole way between them. Singboom was never reduced under the dominion of the Moguls but for 52 generations been an independent district in the possession of the present family. This the Account which Pitumber Singh, &c, have given me I have thought it my duty to lay before you all particulars of it. If you propose of taking the Country under the Company's protection four companies of Sepoy I believe will be quite a sufficient force, and it will probably open an easy intercourse with Sumbulpore. The first overtures on this subject were made by the Raja to Lieut Ferguson near some months ago who by my direction has since made all the inquiries he could concerning Singboom and find his information in general agree with Pitumber Sing's account.

I am etc
{G VANSITTART }

No. 280.

GEO. VANSITTART, Esq.

MOGALPOOTA :
 December 20th, 1767.
 (Recd. 29th do)

Sir,

Being informed by a chit from the Cheikdar of Bamin Boon that Tukeram and three Sardars belonging to Ozuderam's Gang are at Korungur. have sent orders to Gopal Sarney to endeavour to find them out and acquaint you where they are: when I am to request the continuance of your assistance for that they may be seized.

I remain, etc ,
 C. COLLINS

No. 281

To G. VANSITTART.

December 20th, 1767.
 NUZZATPORE (?)

Sir,

I have information by a chit from the Shiahadar of Bamin Boon that Tukeram and three Sardars belonging to Ozuderam's gang are at Boornan-gurhar; sent orders to Gopal Sarrey to endeavour to find them out and acquaint you where they are, when I am to request the continuance of your assistance, Sir, that they may be seized

I remain, etc ,
 C. COLLINS.

No. 282

MIDNAPORE :
 21st December 1767.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq ,
 Collector-General.

-Sir,

Inclosed I transmit you the settlement of these districts for the present year, by which you will perceive that, notwithstanding the un'avourableness of the season, the amount is only eight hundred Rupees less than it was last year, and as the deductions which have been made on account of the drought in July and August and the inundations in October are but temporary, there is a certain prospect of a considerable future increase Last year and the preceding one was rated in the Tushkees at 620 Rupees but produced only 240. I have now therefore rented it to the Casary Zemindar for 320 Rupees, and I flatter myself that, not only this article, but the whole of the present settlement will be realized without the smallest balance The Western Jungles I hope by the encouragement of cultivation and industry will yearly increase in value. For

the present I thought it more advisable to content myself with a moderate addition of Revenue than to render our Government odious and oppressive to our new subjects by a harsh and rigorous treatment.

P.S.—The difficulties arising from the unfavourableness of the season have put it out of my power to include the Sayr Narrangur in its proper pergunnas at present, but you will observe it has admitted of an increase of Rs. 1,000.

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 283.

MIDNAPORE :

22nd December 1767.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I yesterday transmitted you the Settlement of the Revenue which has been made for the present year. Herewith you will receive the statement of the Kistbundy.

[G. VANSITTART].

No. 284.

MONGALPOOTA :

December 24th, 1767.

SIR,

I am favoured with yours of the 22nd instant, also Bengal Chalaun inclosed. The Shuekdar of Bamin Boom sent me a Chalaun of things received from your people which differs from yours. However, all the effects are of so small consequence that I don't think it worth inquiry. The only news here is that Jaddu Sing is ran into the woods after having abandoned this place to me, and stationed chokeys alround, from which infer he will turn out an enemy. I conclude, etc.

C. COLLINS.

No. 285.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

Calcutta.

28th December 1767.

(Recd. 16th do.)

SIR,

I have duly received your favours of the 21st and 22nd instant, enclosing a general statement of the teshkeers settled for the Midnapore and Jellassore Provinces for the present year, and a particular one for the several districts in the jungles to the Westward of Midnapore with a Kistbandee for the payment of the whole : all which I have perused and entirely approve of your adjustments, but as I observe the settlement for the Western Jungles for last year was not completed till after you took charge of your Residency, and, therefore, not completed till after you took charge of your Residency, and, therefore, not included in the general one framed previous thereto, I think it would be as well to consider it abstracted by, which will give us

a truer idea of the increase arising from our new acquisitions, viz, the amount of teshkees settled for 1766-7 in January last, abstracted from those for the Western Jungles is 81,31,168-13-6. The amount of the teshkees now settled 1767-8 is—

| | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------------|----|----|
| The amount of the Teshkees settled for 1766-7 in January last, abstracted from those for the Western Jungles is... | ... | 8,13,148 | 13 | 6 |
| The amount of the Teshkees now settled for 1767-8 is | ... | 8,26,701 | 7 | 0 |
| Deduct for the Western Jungles | 22,683 | 3 | 4 | |
| | | <u>8,04,018</u> | 3 | 10 |
| The difference is | ... | 9,150 | 0 | 0 |
| Add the amount of the Teshkees now settled for the Western Jungles | ... | 22,683 | 3 | 4 |
| Deduct the amount do for last year | ... | 14,840 | 8 | 12 |
| Remains | ... | <u>8,343</u> | 10 | 12 |

Which being taken from the above cause the decrease as you now represent ... 807 5 8

From a statement of the teshkees settled for Tanna Balrampore which was received in March last, the annual revenues agreed for that division for last year appears to Allah Sicca 5,309-6-4, whereas in the one you have now sent me it is rated no more than Allah Siccas 4,470-9-8 I, therefore, desire you will explain to me how the difference arises

Your renting Sayr Cassary for 320 rupees is quite agreeable to me as it produced so small a revenue the two preceding years, but I do not find this sum inserted in the general statement.

The seventeen chests of treasure despatched by you on the 9th instant, did not import here till the 23rd, and the following day I returned the escort which accompanied it. On account of the holidays it has not yet been shroffed and counted, but I shall soon advise you if it proves agreeable to your wishes

I am etc,
RICHD. BECHER,
Collector General.

No 286

MIDNAPUR
30th December 1767.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ,
Collector-General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 28th and observe that the method you have pointed out conveys the clearest idea of the present settle-